

## 'Syrians shot down Turkish plane'

ANKARA (R) — Two Syrian MIG-21 jets shot down a Turkish survey plane Saturday 20 kilometres inside Turkish territory, a Turkish Foreign Ministry statement said. The semi-official Anadolu news agency previously reported that five people died when the Turkish civilian plane crashed. The Foreign Ministry statement said the two-propeller survey plane came down in Hatay province at about 10 a.m. (0800 GMT). "The Syrian ambassador was summoned and the incident was severely protested. Turkey's rights are reserved, damages were demanded and a detailed explanation is expected without delay," the Turkish foreign ministry statement said. Hatay Governor Hamed Demirkol told Anadolu the Syrian planes penetrated up to 30 kilometres into Turkish air space before returning to base. Ten cartridge cases, each 12 cm long, were found near the wreckage of the plane, Demirkol added. The plane was one of two flying from nearby Adana to photograph forests in Hatay province, said Halim Cebeci, head of the Turkish Decade and Cultural Service Department.

# Jordan Times

An independent political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز جريدة سياسية مستقلة بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

## Red Cross asks Arafat's help

GENEVA (R) — The International Red Cross has asked Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to help free two Swiss employees held hostage in Lebanon, a Red Cross spokesman said Saturday. Andre Pasquier, special envoy for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), flew to Tunis Friday to deliver a letter to Arafat from his president, Carlos Sommaruga. Geneva school Emmanuel Charbon, 22, and Elio Erriquoz, 23, at the entrance to the Palestinian refugee camp of 'Ain Al Hilwah near the southern Lebanese port of Sidon Oct. 6. "In Sidon his (Arafat's) presence is quite important, especially in 'Ain Al Hilwah," ICRC spokesman Carlos Bauver told Reuters. In December another ICRC delegate who was taken hostage in Sidon, Peter Whittier, was freed after Arafat's intervention. It was not known if Arafat would be able to influence the still-identified kidnapers of Charbon and Erriquoz. Bauver said the ICRC had also asked the Syrian and Libyan governments to help free the hostages.

Volume 14 Number 4219

AMMAN SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1989, RABIA AWWAL 22, 1410

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

## Elections will be free from constraints — King

LONDON (Agencies) — The Nov. 8 elections to the Lower House of Parliament will be free from any constraints and Jordan is confident of its citizens' awareness to choose whomever they find suitable to represent them in the new parliament, His Majesty King Hussein has said. "Jordan belongs to the Arab nation," said the King in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) broadcast late Friday. "All Jordanians have the same rights, duties and responsibilities, and there is no differentiation between one Jordanian and another," he said. In reply to a question on Islamic fundamentalism and trends in Jordan and their role in elections, the King said: "Religion should

not be an avenue to power or to anything else. Jordan is an Islamic state, but we live in the state as one family consisting of Muslims and Christians and will not compromise our national unity." The King referred to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's efforts to initiate a dialogue between Palestinians and Israelis and said the Egyptian leader had tried his best in the effort, which was aimed at paving the way for an international conference, on the Middle East. The King also reaffirmed that there could not be a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict without Israel relinquishing occupied Arab lands. "I believe that the issue cannot be resolved without Palestinian-Israeli dialogue and

agreement on the hoped-for solution," he said. "The Arab World will extend all support to and bless whatever is accepted by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)." The King also reiterated Jordan's position that it will not negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians. "The Palestinian side has to play its role in full and determine its position on the future of the Palestinian cause and rights," he said. The King is currently on a visit to England on his way back from a state visit to Canada. On Thursday evening, he delivered a lecture on the Middle East situation at Oxford University.

## Lebanese rightist MPs debate compromise

TAIF, Saudi Arabia (Agencies) — Lebanon's Christian deputies, stalled in peace talks with their Muslim counterparts, met Saturday to discuss fresh proposals intended to break the deadlock. The new points, amending an Arab League peace plan unveiled in May, were negotiated in Damascus between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal. "These are the proposals in their final form and we are awaiting your response. We hope it will be positive," Prince Saud told the Christian deputies. But, the new proposals were said to have been deemed as unacceptable by Lebanese army chief Michel Aoun.

other hardline leaders in Beirut. Aoun's insistence on a quick, guaranteed timetable for the pull-out of Syria's estimated 40,000 troops from Lebanon has stalled the vote on a political formula. No precise details of what was agreed on in the Damascus were released. But conference sources have said Syria accepted the idea that its troops pull out of a kilometre-radius "security zone" around the Lebanese parliament before it meets in formal sessions to approve political changes and elect a new president. The Syrians would be replaced by Lebanese police backed by Algerian and Moroccan observers, the sources said. Whether Syria accepted the Christian demand that the Syrian presence in the Bekaa does not exceed one year remained unclear. The original proposal made by the Arab League mediating committee outlined a two-year phased withdrawal of Syrian troops.

Conference sources said Syria has refused a specified timetable for the Bekaa withdrawal, instead proposing it be worked out by a joint Syrian-Lebanese military committee. Conference sources said there were also minor changes in legislative terms in the formulation of the draft that the Christians sought. In exchange for their demands, the Christians have agreed that the number of seats in parliament will be apportioned from 99 to 128, with an equal number of Muslims and Christians. This was included in the original league proposal, but the Christians had reduced it to 108 seats. The current parliament, with only 73 surviving members from

the last elections in 1972, was formed under the six to five advantage for Christians throughout the government agreed on an independence in 1943. The conference sources said that the new agreements would be included in separate amendments to the draft peace plan already formulated. Conference sources said the mediators were confident that the Christians would find the Syrian stance acceptable. The sources said that the Christian deputies at the meeting with Prince Saud were "80 per cent satisfied" with what was relayed to them from Damascus, and that the final reply which depended on the contacts with Beirut was expected to be positive. Conference observers said Saudi Arabia, by letting it known that King Fahd was preparing to come to a final session Sunday, were trying to head off any haggling that might capsize the hard fought agreement. The 63 Christian and Muslim deputies have been in Taif since Sept. 30. The sources quoted Prince Saud as telling the Christian deputies that what he got from Damascus was the "maximum" that Syria was prepared to agree to. Christian deputies themselves refused to comment to reporters, saying they had first to "properly study" what was relayed from Damascus. Muslim deputies on the other hand appeared to have no hesitation in accepting what was agreed upon in Damascus, with Jamil Kubi, a respected elderly deputy, saying "each party got a prize and Lebanon got the best prize."

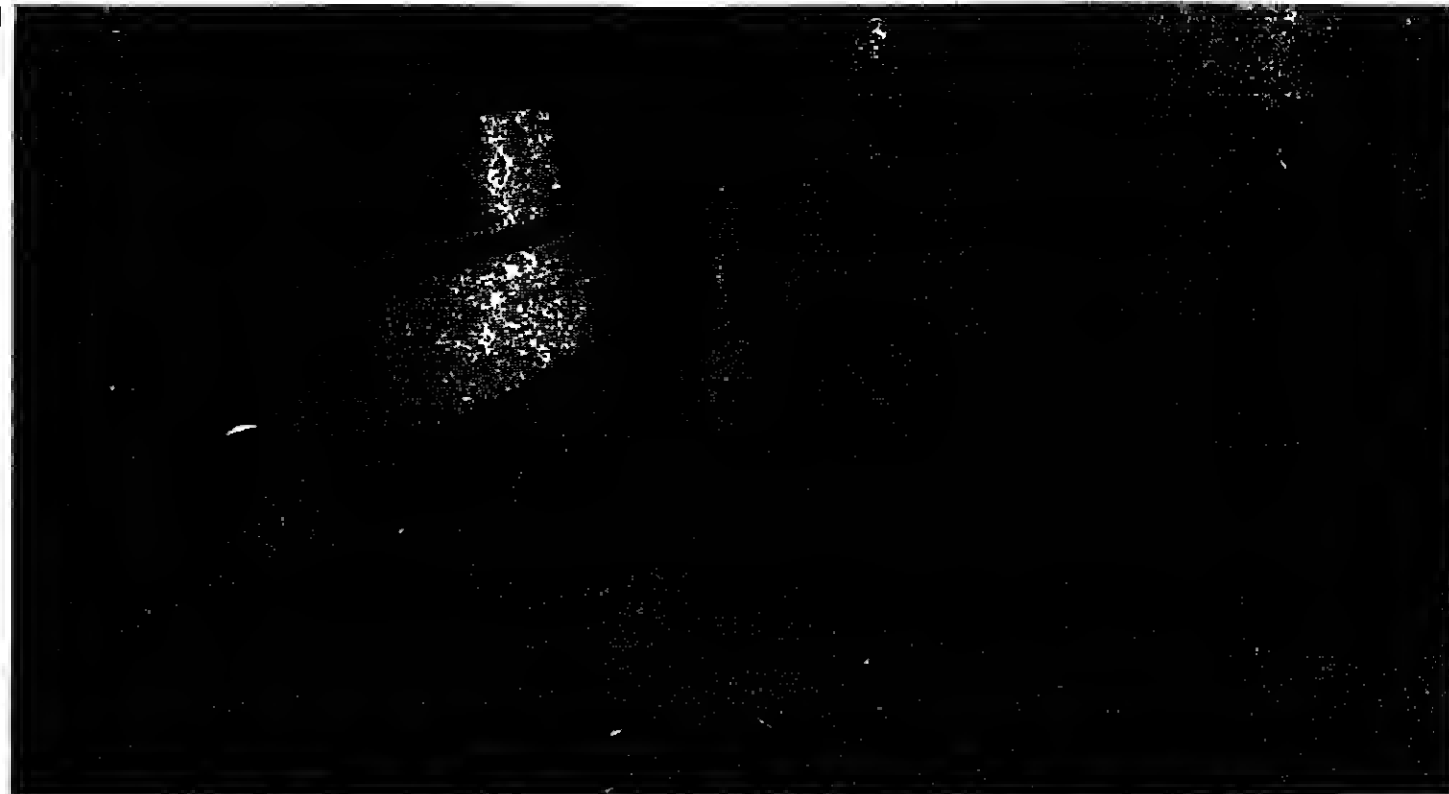
## Honduran Boeing smashes into mountain

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — A Honduran Boeing 727 carrying 137 people smashed into a mountain ridge just south of Tegucigalpa early Saturday, officials said. Radio EURN, a privately owned station, said 40 bodies had been recovered from the site, about 40 kilometres south of the capital, and another 20 injured had been rescued about four hours after the crash. Red Cross volunteers and firefighters said rescue workers were still searching the wreckage. Earlier Red Cross reports of 60 survivors were erroneous, although the final figure was not known. A Sabana Airline employee said on condition of not being identified there were 129 passengers and eight crew members on board the plane. Earlier, officials had said there was a total of 143. Radio stations were broadcasting bulletins from hospitals urgently asking for donations of painkillers, antibiotics and other medicines.

## ANC plans first legal march in 29 years

SOWETO, South Africa (Agencies) — The government has agreed to allow the first African National Congress (ANC) rally in 29 years, and activists said Saturday that newly freed black leaders would address the nation at the gathering. The rally was scheduled for Oct. 29. It would be the first rally by ANC leaders since the group was banned in 1960, a year before the organisation's military wing was formed by Nelson Mandela and six of the seven ANC figures freed from prison last Sunday. "Apart from being a welcoming party, the rally is going to be an occasion at which our leaders will be making a major address to the nation on a whole range of issues," National Union of Mine-workers (NUM) Secretary-General Cyril Ramaphosa said. He spoke at a news conference near the home of senior ANC leader Walter Sisulu. The black, green, and gold ANC flag — legal but seldom tolerated by police — flew from a pole above Sisulu's roof. Sisulu and some of the other freed prisoners met Saturday with Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu at an impromptu birthday celebration for Sisulu's activist

wife, Albertina, 72. Ramaphosa said the National Reception Committee had not actually sought government permission for the rally, to be held in a new soccer stadium near Soweto. But letters had been sent to de Klerk, the minister of justice and the chief magistrate of Johannesburg informing them of the plans. The Department of Justice issued a statement late Friday night saying an application to hold the meeting had been approved by the chief magistrate. Ramaphosa, informed during the news conference of the government approval, said, "they approved it because they knew we would give them trouble if they didn't." President F.W. de Klerk said Saturday that South Africa wanted to lift its three-year-old state of emergency but only if this did not lead to fresh violence. In his first speech since Pretoria freed the ANC last Sunday, de Klerk restated his call for opposition groups to renounce violence. A nationwide state of emergency has been in force since June 1986 to curb a black revolt which killed thousands.



Ladders were used to help victims from a double-deck freeway that collapsed in Oakland, California, in the wake of Tuesday's quake

## Rains, winds, freezing temperatures add to woes of quake-hit California

SAN FRANCISCO (Agencies) — Rain, winds and colder temperatures were expected to fill shelters for the homeless, slow recovery work and possibly even touch off further landslides this weekend across earthquake-shaken northern California. "Right now, we're gearing up for a large influx of people," said Matt McLaughlin, a relief coordinator in Santa Cruz County, where an estimated 10,000 residents have been displaced and some have been sleeping outside. At the fallen stretch of double-deck Interstate 880 in Oakland, that the final reply which depended on the contacts with Beirut was expected to be positive. Conference observers said Saudi Arabia, by letting it known that King Fahd was preparing to come to a final session Sunday, were trying to head off any haggling that might capsize the hard fought agreement. The 63 Christian and Muslim deputies have been in Taif since Sept. 30. The sources quoted Prince Saud as telling the Christian deputies that what he got from Damascus was the "maximum" that Syria was prepared to agree to. Christian deputies themselves refused to comment to reporters, saying they had first to "properly study" what was relayed from Damascus. Muslim deputies on the other hand appeared to have no hesitation in accepting what was agreed upon in Damascus, with Jamil Kubi, a respected elderly deputy, saying "each party got a prize and Lebanon got the best prize."

day, and were to continue through the night. A second system Sunday would bring heavier rain, forecaster Daryl Williams said. On Friday, state officials raised the estimate of damage from Tuesday's killer quake to \$5.5 billion, and coroners reported a total of 55 bodies had been recovered. So far, 34 bodies have been uncovered in the freeway rubble. Meanwhile, California faced with the tangled wreckage of houses and highways are questioning why at least 55 people died in the earthquake that had been widely expected. "Now that we are a little less preoccupied with the immediate emergency we are questioning why we allowed bureaucratic bungling and political log-rolling to make us this vulnerable to a disaster we saw coming for nearly a century," said Bob Sodegran, a resident of the devastated Marina district of San Francisco.

At one time, authorities estimated as many as 250 people were killed when the highway collapsed. Engineers now say the construction techniques for the highway, built in the 1950s, had been questioned for more than 20 years and that as late as 1975 state inspectors were aware that it would not withstand a severe shaking. The danger of collapse was so well known that a popular bumper sticker in Oakland read: "Pray for me, I ride the Nimitz freeway." In San Francisco, most of the damage occurred in the Marina Marina neighbourhood, which was built on landfill despite scientific evidence that this kind of foundation was extremely dangerous in a strong earthquake. "For one, will demand that we stop settling for shoddy construction and poor judgment because a lot of people died who didn't

have to," said Carlos Castaneda, a volunteer worker at a Red Cross shelter. More than 2,000 small and medium-strength aftershocks have been recorded since Tuesday's earthquake, which measured 6.9 on the open-ended Richter scale. David Schwartz, a geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, said scientists were monitoring the aftershocks. "By studying them, we can see how the fault is growing and whether or not other faults are getting involved in the zone of activity," Schwartz said. President George Bush Friday visited the collapsed highway. Bush also was struck by what he saw as he toured ravaged areas to offer sympathy, aid and a pledge of no bureaucratic red-tape. "I am deeply moved by this, saddened in some ways, yet very stimulated by this team effort," the president said.

## Baker said about to dump initiative

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is close to acknowledging that his Middle East peace initiative is dead, according to a senior administration official. The official, who spoke on condition that he remain anonymous, said Baker had considered publishing the text of his five-point formula Friday but had decided against it. The Baker proposal seeks to pave the way for Israeli-Palestinian dialogue on elections in the Israeli-occupied territories. The State Department has said repeatedly that Baker would only publish the text if the blueprint was accepted by the parties involved or if it became clear that the initiative had failed. "In my personal opinion, he's getting very close to the point where he dumps them (the five points) out," said the official. "He considered dumping them out (Friday)... he's not going to pursue this from here to eternity," the official added. It was the strongest expression

of Baker's exasperation at his failure to persuade Israel to accept the points. It came two days after the State Department publicly rebuked Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for making comments it termed "unhelpful" to the peace process. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Baker believed that "there may be a possibility for progress, but it is certainly not a probability. That remains his view today." She said Baker spoke with Shamir on the telephone on Thursday evening and with the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers Friday. "If the parties in the area... do not have the will to overcome their political constraints we cannot produce progress by ourselves," Tutwiler said. Israel objects to two of the five points — that the proposed Palestinian delegation contain leaders expelled by the Israelis from the occupied territories and that the talks could include issues other than the elections.

Shamir Friday appealed for U.S. help in drawing Palestinians into negotiations. Shamir, in a letter to Baker delivered Wednesday, urged the administration to help overcome "intimidation" keeping Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza from participating in the prime minister's proposal for elections, sources quoted by the AP said. Shamir also asked Baker to try to enlist Arab governments to join with Egypt in trying to implement the elections proposal, the sources said. Shamir thanked Baker in the letter for his efforts to implement the election proposal. The letter was not made public, but diplomatic sources disclosed Shamir elaborated in it on his refusal to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and on his election proposal and urged Baker to seek support for Egypt from Arab countries. Also, the sources said, Shamir asked the Bush administration to discuss the election plan with

Palestinian leaders on the West Bank and in Gaza. After all, Shamir reasoned, the Palestinians in the occupied territories are the ones who would vote, negotiate and ultimately live under the arrangement worked out with Israel. Baker took off for a long weekend at his ranch in Wyoming Friday. Before he left, a senior U.S. official said Baker was "not going to pursue (his initiative) from here to eternity." Also, the official told reporters after demanding anonymity, Baker was giving the problem "100 per cent but there could be a limit to how long you continue." The State Department offered assurances Thursday it was not trying to pressure Israel into talking to the PLO. Baker "wants to make sure he leaves to reach a solution. But when you get to the point where you've done 100 per cent of what you can do, you could turn your attention away to other parts of the world," the official said.

## 2 more Gazans killed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians in the occupied territories observed a general strike Saturday to press demands for independence and clashed with Israeli troops, leaving at least 11 Palestinians wounded, reports said. The Israeli military command reported that two Palestinian boys died overnight of wounds suffered in earlier clashes with soldiers. Traffic throughout the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip came to a halt and shops and businesses were closed following strike calls from the underground leadership of the 22-month Palestinian revolt. The uprising leaders said in a leaflet that Saturday's strike was to stress rejection "of all conspiracy schemes" like Israel's election plan and press demands for an independent Palestinian state. Israel offers elections in the occupied territories to choose Palestinian representatives for negotiations on a limited autonomy. The Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) has rejected the proposal. Demonstrations erupted Saturday in Nablus, the largest town in the West Bank, and the neighbouring Balata refugee camp. Hospital officials in Nablus said they treated five wounded shot by Israeli troops. The wounded in Nablus included a 65-year-old man. Reporters said he was shot by accident after Israeli soldiers opened fire at two wounded men. In Qalqilya, paramilitary police driving a van with West Bank license plates were met by a dozen of masked protesters who hurled rocks at the vehicle, thinking it was a local car violating the strike, Arab reports said. The van reportedly crashed into a wall and at least one officer was injured. An army spokesman denied the report but confirmed that a police officer was lightly injured in a stone-throwing incident in Qalqilya. Clashes were also reported in the occupied Gaza Strip, and hospital officials said they treated six wounded. At the Gaza Strip refugee camp of Khan Yunis, doctors said they treated Tahir Muhammad Tahir, 22, who was stabbed in the head and the hand Friday, and his 19-year-old sister Shabanez, who was shot in the arm. Arab journalists said the two were attacked by masked assailants who suspected them of collaborating with Israel. Meanwhile, the army command said a 17-year-old boy from Khan Yunis died at an Israeli hospital late Friday. It said the boy, identified by reporters as Iyad Al Asi, was shot by troops on Friday. At another hospital, 18-year-old Nidal Hajaji of Gaza City died Saturday of a head wound suffered in a clash with soldiers earlier this month, the army said. Police Commissioner David Krauss, meanwhile, said the policy of granting permits to Palestinian workers to spend the night in Tel Aviv would be re-evaluated. Thousands of Palestinian workers travel each morning to Tel Aviv but need a special permit to stay during the night.

## Gorbachev tells Krenz to strengthen socialism

EAST BERLIN (R) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev gave his backing to new East German leader Egon Krenz Saturday as authorities grappled with a fresh wave of demonstrations for democracy. In their first conversation since Krenz became Communist Party chief last Wednesday, Gorbachev congratulated him on his appointment and said the most important thing was to strengthen East Germany's socialist system, the official news agency ADN said. The agency did not say who initiated the call but said Gorbachev invited Krenz to visit Moscow soon. The 52-year-old

former security chief is expected to go shortly after being nominated head of state by parliament next Tuesday. ADN said Krenz told Gorbachev the visit would enable him to tell the Kremlin about "the policy of renewal and continuity in East Germany." Krenz, appointed after 18 years of rigid rule by Erich Honecker, has promised to open a dialogue between the authorities and people to end East Germany's worst unrest since a 1953 workers' uprising which Soviet tanks suppressed. In the latest demonstration, tens of thousands marched in silence with candles through the

southern city of Dresden to support more democracy and civil rights, challenging Krenz to live up to his promises. ADN estimated the Dresden crowd at 20,000, though witnesses said it was more than twice that size. Police did not intervene, even though the march was in theory illegal. Local newspapers also reported demonstrations Thursday in the Baltic port of Rostock and in Zittau, a southern town near the border with Poland and Czechoslovakia. Authorities have also faced a crisis with this year's departure to the West of about 120,000 of

East Germany's 16.6 million citizens. Some 60,000 have fled through Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia since Sept. 11, when reformist Hungary threw open its border with Austria. The official newspaper Berliner Zeitung said Saturday the exodus — the largest since East Germany built the Berlin Wall in 1961 — would cost about 10 billion marks (\$5.5 billion) in lost national income. The Communist Party newspaper Neues Deutschland said the government was preparing a law which would make it easier for East Germans to

travel abroad by removing the obligation to give a reason for wanting to visit the West. "There is no doubt that it will meet the expectations of those many people who are saying, 'we want to cooperate in improving things for our country and its citizens, but we would like to see just once Vienna or Paris or Munich or Stockholm, and we would come back to the homeland with interesting impressions from such a trip.'" Neues Deutschland said, however, that East Germany did not have enough hard currency to fund considerable travel abroad.



## Lebanese opposition militias open ports with veneer of legality

By Donna Abu Nasr  
Associated Press

JIBE, Lebanon (AP) — Three ports run by opposition militias, whose status touched off six months of fierce artillery battles between Falangists and Syrians, are back in business.

For the first time since the ports were opened in 1984, the Syrian-backed militias have allowed government customs officials to be stationed at the three ports, which were blockaded during the fighting that erupted in March and halted Sept. 22.

Shadiq Ataya, general manager of the Druze-controlled port at Jibe, 24 kilometres south of Beirut, said the presence of the customs officials "means that the ports have now become legal."

But Falangist government officials say it's only a token customs presence to give the militia operations a veneer of legality.

A senior official close to military leader Gen. Michel Aoun said: "It's just a front. There's simply no way of checking what they do or checking ships' manifests to determine what is being brought in."

Officials at the central bank said customs levies from the militia ports are being deposited in the customs directorate account, but declined to give a total.

The Falangist source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said: "We believe the militias are issuing forged manifests listing fewer goods than are actually shipped, or listing goods that carry lower duty than are actually being imported, so that they pay minimum customs levies."

The customs directorate sent officials to Jibe and the other militia run ports of Ouzai and Khalde on Sept. 25, three days after an Arab League-brokered ceasefire halted the fighting between Aoun's forces and the Syrians.

Khalde, a few kilometres south of Beirut, is also operated by Druze militia Walid Junblatt's Progressive Socialist Party. Ouzai on Beirut's southern outskirts, is run by Justice Minister Nabih Berri's Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia.

Ships stopped docking at the militia-run ports in March when Aoun's gunboats and helicopter gunships blockaded them in a bid to restore long-eroded state authority.

He also sought to choke off one of the militias' main sources of revenue. He estimated that the Lebanese treasury had lost \$100 million a year in customs duties since 1984.

Junblatt's forces and the Syrians retaliated by blockading the Falangist enclave north of Beirut. The move by Aoun, who heads a military government vying for power with a rival Muslim cabinet, triggered some of the most ferocious artillery battles of the 14-year-old civil war.

More than 900 people were killed and nearly 3,000 wounded. Most of the casualties were civilians.

"Another war will erupt if there is any attempt to close the ports again," said Khairallah Zein, general manager at Ouzai. Aoun's 20,000 mainly Christian troops took over Beirut Port from the Falangists' main militia, the Lebanese Forces, in February and still control it.

Former President Suleiman Franjeh's Christian Marada, or Giants, militia control a port at Chekka in north Lebanon, but it is a legal facility which levies regular customs duties.

The civilian government led by Acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss is powerless to move against the opposition militias to assert its authority.

Some 22,000 troops of Lebanon's splintered army technically are aligned with Hoss. But they owe allegiance more to the militia chiefs than they do to Hoss' government and are not likely to take control of the opposition ports the way Aoun moved against the Lebanese Forces.

Since the ceasefire, militia officials reported that 20 cargo ships have docked at Ouzai and four at Jibe.

Khalde has not reopened yet because its single dock sited up during the fighting and it is currently being dredged.

Before the fighting erupted in March, about 60 ships a month

docked at Ouzai, which opened in 1985. It employs about 400 people.

Informed sources noted that the opposition militias have only permitted Druze customs officers to be stationed at Jibe and Khalde and Shi'ites at Amal's port.

"They do what they're told by the militias," one source commented.

Zein said customs duties are levied at Ouzai "the same way they are at regular ports."

But he conceded that customs and security officials are only allowed to board ships accompanied by port guards, all militia-men, who also supervise unloading.

"We only trust our own people," Zein noted.

A port worker at Ouzai, speaking on condition of anonymity, said plainclothes Syrian intelligence officers keep watch on the militia port guards.

All kinds of goods, including foodstuffs, medicines, electrical

appliances and clothing, are brought in through the opposition-controlled ports "to meet the basic needs of the people in their areas, the reason the ports were opened in the first place," Ataya said.

Aoun claimed the opposition militias and their Syrian allies were also using the ports to ship drugs and terrorists from the Bekaa Valley in east Lebanon, a Syrian-controlled region, and bring in weapons.

"I challenge him to name just one ship that has been seized anywhere in the world with a cargo of drugs originating in one of the three ports," Zein said.

He said that Amal does not even allow shipments of liquor and pork, banned in Shi'ite areas, to come through Ouzai, "so why should anyone believe we would allow drugs to pass through this harbour?"

"As for arms, the militias get them overland. They don't need the ports for that," he said.

## Ozal fails to get necessary majority

ANKARA (AP) — Premier Turgut Ozal, running for president in defiance of growing protests, has failed to receive the necessary majority for election at a parliament session boycotted by the opposition parties.

In the first ballot, Ozal received 247 votes from the 285 deputies of his Motherland Party in the 450-member parliament. This would be enough for victory on a third ballot Oct. 31, when a simple majority is sufficient, but it fell short of the two-thirds majority of 300 required in the first two ballots.

Ozal criticised the boycott, calling it a dereliction of constitutional duty by the opposition members. "They should have named their own candidate and participated in the election," he told reporters after the vote.

He said he planned to designate a new premier from his party in a couple days after he takes

over as president on Nov. 9, that is when the seven-year term of President Kenan Evren expires.

In Friday's ballot, Fethi Celikbas, a Motherland deputy who is the only candidate running against Ozal garnered 18 votes. The rest cast empty ballots.

Four Motherland deputies have resigned from the party to protest Ozal's decision to run for president.

Tinaz Titiz, a former tourism minister in the Ozal government, said in his resignation statement Friday that he could not condone an election carried out without the participation of the opposition.

Also empty were the seats reserved in the galleries for outgoing President Kenan Evren and high-level military officials.

The military, always a power behind presidential elections, has made clear it will not play a role this time.

## Somalia frees 1,168 prisoners

MOGADISHU (R) — Somalia President Mohammad Siad Barre has celebrated 20 years in power by freeing more than 1,000 prisoners and calling on his countrymen to help revive an ailing, war-ravaged economy.

The official Somali News Agency (Sonna) said Siad Barre marked Friday's anniversary by pardoning 1,168 inmates who had committed various crimes but it did not elaborate.

Somalia, accused by Western governments and human rights groups of detaining opponents without trial and committing summary executions, earlier this year released hundreds of political prisoners.

But Friday's prisoner release is



Mohammed Siad Barre

the first since rioting broke out in the capital, Mogadishu, in July. The government says 32 people were killed in the disturbances but diplomats put the death toll at over 400.

In a speech to the nation, Siad Barre did not mention the prisoner release but asked his countrymen to support economic reform measures and to stop hoarding cash, Sonna said.

## Sudanese leader extends truce; urges peace talks

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese military leader General Hassan Al Bashir, speaking on the final day of a 44-day peace conference Saturday, extended a truce with southern rebels and urged them to abandon war.

"I call on the rebel movement to extend the hand of peace and not the fist of war," Bashir said in a speech on state Radio Omdurman.

More than 5,000 people joined celebrations at the end of the peace conference, attended by 100 delegates picked by the military leadership but boycotted by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

Diplomats in Khartoum doubted the conference would help achieve peace with the SPLA, fighting since 1983 to end domination of the largely non-Muslim south by the Arabised north.

The conference closed with a recommendation that Islamic Sharia Law and custom form the basis of legislation, which the diplomats said would do little to allay the fears of non-Muslims.

Most southerners want a secular constitution and a complete separation of state from religion. A series of ceasefires declared by the SPLA and Bashir have

largely halted hostilities in southern Sudan since May. Bashir called on the SPLA to abandon war for the negotiating table and renewed an invitation to the rebels to come to Khartoum for dialogue.

"I hereby declare that full protection will be provided to the movement when it comes to pursue peace talks," he said.

Bashir seized power from the civilian government of former Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi on June 30. He declared the first ceasefire four days later.

The diplomats said the conference's most significant call was for development projects in poor areas, a key demand of southerners whose region is the least developed in Sudan.

Its recommendation that Sudan adopt a federal system of government fell short of the SPLA's demand for a confederation or outright separation, they added.

Bashir said conference decisions would form the basis for peace talks with the SPLA.

The final day of the conference was declared a public holiday. Traditional dancers beat huge drums, boy scouts marched through Khartoum and demonstrators chanted, "we are all for peace."

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Over 50 killed in Sudan bus collision

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — A bus veered into a high-voltage power pole and caught fire Friday after a collision with another bus, and more than 50 people burned to death, authorities said. Egypt's state-owned Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported the death toll at 64, but that could not be confirmed. Witnesses said the two buses collided 40 kilometres south east of Khartoum toward Wadi Medani on one of Sudan's few major roads. One of the vehicles swerved off the highway into a transformer pole. They said everybody on the bus died except the conductor, a baby and five others. Passengers of the other bus were injured, some seriously, but it was not known how many.

### Queen Elizabeth stops in Bahrain

BAHRAIN (R) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth paid a two-hour visit to Bahrain Saturday on her way home from the Commonwealth summit in Malaysia. A spokesman for the British embassy said Bahrain's Emir Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa invited the Queen for lunch while her plane refuelled. She was received at the airport by the Emir, Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and other figures. Bahrain was a British protectorate from 1961 until independence in 1971.

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**Jordan Times'**  
**JORDAN MARKET PLACE**

| JORDAN TELEVISION    |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Tel: 773111-19       |                           |
| <b>PROGRAMME ONE</b> |                           |
| 15:30                | Koran                     |
| 15:45                | Children programme        |
| 17:15                | Football                  |
| 18:00                | News summary in Arabic    |
| 18:15                | Local programme           |
| 18:20                | Give Me a Break           |
| 19:15                | Local programme           |
| 19:40                | Programme review          |
| 20:00                | News in Arabic            |
| 20:30                | Arabic series             |
| 21:00                | Programme review          |
| 21:50                | Local programme           |
| 22:00                | Varieties programme       |
| 23:00                | News summary in Arabic    |
| <b>PROGRAMME TWO</b> |                           |
| 18:30                | Loft story                |
| 18:45                | L'ecole de fous           |
| 19:00                | News in French            |
| 19:15                | Documentary               |
| 19:30                | News in Hebrew            |
| 19:45                | Varieties programme       |
| 20:00                | News in Arabic            |
| 20:30                | Perfect Strangers         |
| 21:10                | Doc. "Count down to Zero" |
| 22:00                | News in English           |
| 22:30                | Midnight Caller           |
| <b>PRAYER TIMES</b>  |                           |
| 04:22                | Fajr                      |
| 05:40                | (Sunrise) Dhuhr           |
| 11:20                | Dhuhr                     |
| 14:30                | 'Asr                      |

| CHURCHES   |         |
|--|---------|
| 17:41  | Maghreb |
| 18:18  | 'Asa    |
| <b>CHURCHES</b>  |         |
| St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetlich, Tel. 810740  |         |
| Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785  |         |
| St. Joseph Church Tel. 604590  |         |
| Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440   |         |
| De la Salle Church Tel. 661757   |         |
| Terraviva Church Tel. 622366   |         |
| Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541   |         |
| Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 771331   |         |
| Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772621   |         |
| St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751   |         |
| Armenian International Church Tel. 685326  |         |
| Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295  |         |
| The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932   |         |
| <b>WEATHER</b>   |         |
| Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology   |         |
| General note in temperatures is expected and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm. |         |

| JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| Amman   | Min./max. temp. 10 / 23 |
| Aqaba   | 15 / 30                 |
| Dead Sea  | 9 / 25                  |
| Jordan Valley   | 16 / 32                 |
| Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 20, Aqaba 27. Humidity readings: Amman 57 per cent, Aqaba 38 per cent. |                         |
| <b>USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS</b>   |                         |
| <b>NIGHT DUTY</b>   |                         |
| <b>AMMAN:</b>   |                         |
| Dr. Hani Haddadin   | 777751                  |
| Dr. Fakhri Al Bilal   | 625778                  |
| Dr. Youssef Sammut  | 615648                  |
| Dr. Mohammed Abu Madhoun  | 783544                  |
| Fires pharmacy  | 661912                  |
| Ferdous pharmacy  | 778336                  |
| Al Aqsa pharmacy  | 637025                  |
| Natashah pharmacy   | 623672                  |
| Al Salem pharmacy   | 636730                  |
| Yacoub pharmacy   | 644943                  |
| Shmeisani pharmacy  | 637660                  |
| <b>IRBID:</b>   |                         |
| Dr. Kamal Al Najjar   | (-)                     |
| Al Shams pharmacy   | (985238)                |

| EMERGENCIES                                  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Civil Defence Department                     | 661111              |
| Civil Defence Immediate                      | 630341              |
| Civil Defence Emergency                      | 199                 |
| Rescue Police                                | 152, 621111, 637777 |
| Fire Brigade                                 | 821228              |
| Blood Bank                                   | 775121              |
| Highway Police                               | 845845              |
| Traffic Police                               | 860390              |
| Public Security Department                   | 63531               |
| Hotel Complaints                             | 635300              |
| Price Complaints                             | 661176              |
| Water and Sewerage                           | 67467               |
| Complaints                                   | 787111              |
| Telephone Information (directory assistance) | 121                 |
| Overseas Calls                               | 010230              |
| Central Amman Telephone                      | 62101               |
| Regents                                      | 62101               |
| Abdullah Telephone Repair                    | 61101               |
| Jordan Television                            | 773111              |
| Radio Jordan                                 | 774111              |
| Water Authority                              | 680100              |
| Jordan Electricity Authority                 | 615615              |

| HOSPITALS                 |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| AMMAN:                    |            |
| Hamdan Medical Centre     | 813813/32  |
| Khalidi Maternity, J. Amm | 644281/6   |
| Aldah Maternity, J. Amm   | 644412     |
| Jabal Amman Maternity     | 642962     |
| Mathias, J. Amman         | 636140     |
| Pakistan, Shmeisani       | 664171/4   |
| Shmeisani Hospital        | 669131     |
| University Hospital       | 845845     |
| Al-Munshar Hospital       | 667277/9   |
| The Islamic, Abdali       | 666127/57  |
| Al-Ahli, Abdali           | 664164/6   |
| Ballan, Al-Musharafa      | 777101/3   |
| Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf      | 775112/6   |
| Army, Madha               | 891611/5   |
| Queen Alia Hospital       | 602440/50  |
| Assal Hospital            | 614155     |
| ZARQA:                    |            |
| Zarqa Govt. Hospital      | (09)983323 |
| Zarqa National Hospital   | (09)991071 |
| Don Sima Hospital         | (09)986732 |
| IRBID:                    |            |
| Princess Basma Hospital   | (02)275535 |
| Greek Catholic Hospital   | (02)27275  |
| Don Al Nafesa Hospital    | (02)247100 |
| AQABA:                    |            |
| Princess Haya Hospital    | (03)314111 |

| FOR THE TRAVELLER  |  |
|--|--|
| QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT   |  |
| This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)3300-5, where it should always be verified. |  |



## ELECTIONS '89

By Nermeen Murad

ONE OF the candidates is using the government-owned electricity company vehicles to display his election banners. Is this legal?

\*\*\*

MUSLIM fundamentalist candidates maintain that although they have been accused of extremism and violence, these two characteristics are the farthest from their dictums. "The way that the media are portraying Islam is very far from the reality of our religion," Dr. Hassan Sa'ad, a candidate of the Muslim Brotherhood in the fifth district of the capital, told the Jordan Times. He attributed his "hated image" to two factors:

Some ardent Muslims view Islam from a "limited window" and these views reflect on the general perspective.

The hurried studies by some of those looking into the reality of Islam result in haphazard conclusions.

Walid Shukri Shabouh, a Muslim Brotherhood candidate for the Third District's Christian seat, asserts that the Brotherhood "has been accused of extremism and violence when in reality we are the victims of these two factors."

Chaleb Abou Aboud, also of the Third District and Shabouh's running mate in the elections, sees the Brotherhood "as a victim of terrorism of the different regimes."

\*\*\*

IN A debate held at the Professional Associations Complex Wednesday, the microphones did not perform as well as it should have, and appeared to be taking decisions on its own. Six candidates participated in the debate during which each candidate spent a few minutes outlining his/her campaign before the audience. Walid Shukri Shabouh, a lawyer in the Third District, was the first to speak followed by engineer Latif Shabouh. As the third speaker was about to start, the microphone went dead. Shabouh immediately said, "Capitalism must favour us," referring to Abdul Hadi and himself. Ironically the speaker happened to be Dr. Yacoub Zayadine, a known communist.

\*\*\*

RUMOUR has it that one organisation has as many as 80 candidates in the elections. The problem is that this organisation is so secret that no one knows these candidates by name. Even if one does know, he/she is not talking.

\*\*\*

## Poll procedures continue

AMMAN (J.T.) — Election authorities in the various constituencies have started to release names of candidates in the Nov. 8 polls to the Lower House of Parliament to allow for voters to file objections to any of the nominees by Sunday.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said courts have ruled on appeals filed by aspirants to Parliament seats whose nominations were rejected by the concerned governors. The courts of first instance in Amman rejected the appeal of two while the court in Irbid turned down the appeal of

another. In Ajloun, the court overturned a rejection of nomination by Fahmi Ali Abidi, and subsequently, the governor reinstated the nomination in the candidate roster, Petra said.

In Tafleh governorate, a total of 17 candidates are running for three seats. Out of 21,908 voter cards, some 18,000 have been collected by Oct. 20.

In Zarqa governorate, a total of 59,306 voter cards were handed over. Zarqa Governor Mohammad Shobaki has called upon citizens to pick up their cards as soon as possible.

## Amman meeting sets the way to 'humanise' debate

AMMAN (J.T.) — In an effort to "humanise" medical and scientific seminars, organisers are adopting a new trend of highlighting the "human element" rather than just concentrating on the technical and scientific details of the topics.

Following this philosophy, the third Pan-Arab Seminar on Zoonotic and Parasitic Diseases, which concluded its three-day meetings here Thursday has recommended the establishment of a research centre in Amman to "serve in spreading awareness, in that it would help the community in understanding what zoonotic and parasitic diseases are all about," said the chairman of the seminar, Dr. Oumish Oumish, a Jordanian dermatologist.

In the closing session, after generalised discussions and evaluation of the papers presented by Jordanian and non-Jordanian participants, it was decided that an information dissemination network with national and international connections be established, also in Amman," according to Oumish.

"It was also recommended that such seminars should include workshops on development of research projects that are related to these diseases," he said.

The participants advised the continuation of similar seminars with the understanding that they would help in following up the recent advances in the epidemiology, treatment and prevention of such diseases.

According to a participant in the seminar, Dr. Laurence Perish of the University of Thomas Jefferson in Philadelphia, scientific discoveries are useless if everyone is not made aware of them and they are used to help people. "If there is no dissemination of information, then it is simply an academic exercise which does not benefit the community."

According to Oumish, "we, both participants and organisers, acknowledge the international and national institutions for their significant contribution to the seminar, especially the Canadian International Development and Research Centre (IDRC)."

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

## EXHIBITIONS

- \* An art exhibition by Foad Mimi and 'Ammar Khammash at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation's Scientific and Cultural Centre.
- \* An exhibition entitled "Discovered pictures in East Jerusalem" by Austrian artist Eva Patz at the Goethe Institute.
- \* An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Mohammad Al Qudus displaying oil and watercolour paintings depicting nature in Jordan, at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- \* An art exhibition by Jordanian plastic artist Basma Butouli at Alla Art Gallery.
- \* A national book exhibition displaying political, economic, social and children's books at Raya Bint Al Hussein School, Madaba.
- \* An exhibition of modern American books which includes books on agriculture, engineering, medicine and other topics, at the University of Jordan.

## FILM

- \* A feature film entitled "Amadens" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

## LECTURE

- \* A lecture entitled "The Unfamiliar Jordan — In Search of Creative Photography" by Amer Khammash at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation's Scientific, Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

## Israeli toxic waste plan near Eilat rings alarms

By Mariani M. Shabin  
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Plans by an Israeli government-owned chemical firm, Israel Chemicals Limited (ICL), to import 100,000 tonnes annually of "dangerous" industrial wastes and to extract aluminum and dispose of some of the by-products at a recycling plant 30 kilometers from Eilat on the Red Sea has sent alarm bells ringing to environmental protection circles in Jordan.

Jordanian environmentalists confirmed Saturday that even minor exposure to phosphine (toxic) gases could have detrimental effects on water resources, corals, sea life and of course human beings. Eilat is about 40 kilometers from Jordan's Aqaba port.

In Israel itself, the issue has

kicked up a storm.

Yosef Tamir, a former Knesset member and head of an umbrella group of environmental protection agencies in Israel, described it as "the worst environmental scandal I have come across in 40 years." He said the plan by the Israeli company to recycle the industrial wastes could poison people, animals, water and land, in the area. Although most of the waste consists of aluminum and silica, which are relatively harmless, according to experts, part of the waste, when mixed with water, releases highly toxic phosphine gas.

Tamir was quoted by the Associated Press as saying that "scientists told me specifically this material is full of poisons."

The immediate threat to Jordan is not yet known since the Israeli government is believed

not to have approved the project. However, an official source said Saturday that "we are aware of the situation and waiting to see if the Israelis decide to go ahead with the plan."

"I doubt that the Israelis are crazy enough to poison themselves, but we have to wait and see," he said. "If the wastes come anywhere near the Red Sea then it may become a Jordanian issue as well."

The main fear of Jordanian environmentalists is that the Israelis might dump part of the waste in earth and this could creep into Jordanian soil.

"I will not put it past the Israelis to build an underground tunnel and dump the waste in Jordanian territory," was the icy comment of a Jordanian observer.

Haim Erez, director general

of ICL, was quoted in the Israeli press as saying that experts at the ICL and Tami, a private research firm in Haifa, "assured us that the industrial waste poses no health or environmental danger." He added that if the Israeli environment ministry declines to approve the project "we will of course drop the whole thing."

ICL plans to extract 8,000 tonnes of aluminum from the waste, while 60,000 tonnes of minerals would be returned to West Germany and 30,000 tonnes would stay in Israel, according to reports.

The project would create 40 to 50 jobs at the plant and would provide foreign currency, the reports said.

The Jerusalem Post reported that Tamir had countered that Environment Minister Roni

Milo told him "he was opposed to it, but he had a problem because it was supported by Finance Minister Shimon Peres and Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon." The newspaper did not carry any comment from Milo.

Tamir told the AP that "no country in Africa and in the Third World is willing to accept these materials. Why should Israel?"

The director general at the Israeli ministry of environment, Uri Marinov, was quoted as saying he was "very worried" about the situation, said he had not received a detailed plan, but sought to assure the press that if the deal were approved, strict conditions would be imposed. He said that a bypass road around Eilat was necessary because the toxic material

in humid conditions gives off phosphine gas, which he was quoted as saying was "more toxic than cyanide."

An Israeli expert was quoted as saying that after he asked the German partners in the deal to explain why they wanted to get rid of the wastes they answered by saying "the sun provided free evaporation, and the drying process would require electricity if this were done in Germany." He also reported that the German counterparts had said the price of recycling the material in Germany would be exorbitant when compared to the price in Israel.

The Jerusalem Post also reported Tamir as saying that an undisclosed amount of money had been offered to ICL to recycle the wastes for the German counterpart.

## Petra Bank reaches agreement in principle to 'defreeze' Visa

By Ghadeer Taber  
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Petra Bank has reached agreement in principle with Visa Card International to pay off its remaining \$1.7 million debt. In turn, Visa would resume credit authorisation for Petra Bank card-holders worldwide.

"We have reached an agreement in principle to renegotiate terms with Visa and pay back our debt and then we expect Visa to resume its service for our cardholders," Bassam Attari, general manager of Petra Bank, said Saturday.

Petra cards (Visa cards issued by the bank) were "frozen" shortly after the government's Economic Security Committee took over Petra Bank management in August. "Technical problems in processing caused by financial difficulties that arose as a result of initial association with financial corporations linked to (former Petra Bank Chairman) Ahmad Chalabi and Petra Bank International in Washington D.C." were cited as reasons for the Visa freeze by Attari in an earlier interview with the Jordan Times.

Informed banking sources said Petra Bank had defaulted on its payments to Visa Card International when the bank was under the management of Chalabi. The bank's management was replaced and the bank was merged with the smaller Jordan Gulf Bank because



of possible "gross" violation of banking laws and other regulations governing foreign exchange regulations.

The resumption of Visa Card International Authorisation, according to analysts, is a confidence boosting measure for the troubled bank. "After the bank was supported by the government and the CBJ (Central Bank of Jordan), this is a sign that Petra can meet its obligations," said an analyst. Another bank agreed, "this is a positive sign for Petra Bank."

In further negotiations with Visa Card International, Petra Bank will try to reschedule its \$1.7 million debt. According to Attari, the bank will try to pay off the debt through weekly installments of \$200,000 to \$250,000. The bank has already paid a substantial part of its original debt of \$7 million to Visa Card International, Attari said.

In an earlier interview, Attari said that Petra bank was negotiating a new agreement with Visa "based on new conditions." The new conditions will focus on the processing side of the card service with certain banks of which some are owned

or controlled by Chalabi.

Before the management change, according to sources, Petra Bank used to cooperate with Visa Card International under loosely defined agreements reached through agents. "It was very difficult in the initial stages of sorting out the bank's affairs to make heads or tails of Petra Bank's links with Visa Card," according to one of the sources.

An agreement on rescheduling Petra Bank's outstanding payment to Visa is expected to be finalised by the middle or end of November, according to Attari.

Petra Bank is also in the process of reducing the number of its card customers to approximately 2,000 from 7,000. The card will be taken away from those who "benefited illegally" through the strength of the card. "There were people using the card to speculate against the dinar," Attari said. "They used to buy the dollar at 580 fils on the strength of the card and then sell it on the black market for 800 to 900 fils," he said.

Some holders, according to Attari, were also not meeting their payments, raising questions over their creditworthiness. These cards will be revoked, he said.

In addition to the regular Petra cards, the bank also used to extend credit to some 850 others holding "Golden Petra cards." Attari said the bank was planning to reduce the number of "Golden Petra cards" to 100.

## Labour legislation to top agenda of ACC ministers' Cairo meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Unification of legislation and regulations related to the employment of workers in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries will be among the main topics on the agenda of a meeting of the ACC ministers of labour, according to Labour Minister Jamal Al Bedour.

The minister made the statement shortly before his departure for Cairo where the two-day meeting will begin Sunday.

The ministers, who represent Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen, will discuss, among other things, steps taken for the implementation of resolutions and recommendations adopted at earlier meetings concerning the employment of ACC workers, the flow of manpower within ACC countries and the employment of



Jamal Al Bedour

foreign labourers with a view to finding proper means to substitute foreign workers with ACC workers, said the minister.

Bedour said that the four ministers would look into ways

for unifying legislations with a view to facilitating dealings among the ACC countries in labour-related fields.

An assessment of the ACC countries' future needs of workers in the light of their economies and social plans will also be discussed at the meeting, the minister added.

Bedour is accompanied to Cairo by Dr. Mansour Utoum, director of the Labour Ministry's employment office.

The Cairo meeting will follow up on the implementation of recommendations reached during the ACC labour ministers' first meeting in Baghdad in August. The ministers will further discuss means to curtail the flow of foreign labourers into the ACC countries and to draw up a social security plan.

## Regent reviews Arab, Islamic issues

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday met a Pakistani military delegation now on a visit to Jordan. The Regent reviewed with the visitors the general political and economic situation in the Arab and Islamic worlds and efforts to solve the Palestinian and Afghan problems.

Prince Hassan underlined the need for increas-

ing economic cooperation among the countries of the Middle East region, and referred in particular to the formation of regional economic groups, which, he said, could have an influential role in the world.

The Pakistani delegation will tour military positions and will meet with senior army officers in Jordan.

## Cabinet debates new income tax law

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet Saturday reviewed a new income tax law aimed at alleviating the burden on lower income groups.

Minister of Information Nasouh Majali said in a briefing after the cabinet session.

According to Majali, the Cabinet also approved an amend-

ment to a law on additional services tax at hotels and restaurants. The present 10 per cent tax was broadened to include

three and four star hotels and restaurants.

Majali also said the Cabinet formed a committee to prepare His Majesty King Hussein's speech from the throne to the new Parliament. The speech usually outlines the government programme of action. The committee comprises deputy prime minister Salem Masa'deh and Marwan Al Qasem; Minister of Energy and Natural Resources

Hisham Al Khatib; Minister of Higher Education Nasser Adeen Al Assad; Minister of Planning Zaid Fariz; Minister of Agriculture Adnan Badran; Minister of Culture and Information Nasouh Majali and Minister of Finance Bassel Jaradneh.

The Council of Ministers also approved a draft amendment to the law on revenue stamps. The Cabinet was briefed by the minister of planning on the King's recent visit to Canada.



Abdullah Al Qudaih

## Cardiac conference to open Oct. 25

AMMAN (J.T.) — Three American, British and French professors of Jordanian origin have been invited by the University of Jordan to deliver lectures at "a conference on chest diseases scheduled to open here Oct. 25, according to Dr. Abdullah Al Qudaih, the chairman of the conference.

Qudaih said that delegates from nearly all Arab states and of foreign countries had already arrived here for the three-day meeting, which is organised by the University of Jordan in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the National Medical Institution (NMI) and the Jordanian Society for Cardiac and Chest Diseases.

"The conference will be a unique event in the Middle East since it will group a very large number of specialists working and living in the Arab countries of Asia and Africa, and professors of different specialisations working in European countries," said Qudaih in a statement issued Saturday.

He said Jordan would submit 12 working papers to the conference, which will review almost 70 papers from the participating countries. Diseases connected with smoking and the environment will be among the main topics, which will also include lung cancer and respiratory diseases, according to Qudaih.

The participants will inspect medical equipment which will be on display at the university throughout duration of the conference. The participants, Qudaih added, can also watch a documentary film and will be taken on tours to different sites in Jordan.

## UNDP offers to help agriculture students

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has offered the University of Jordan technical assistance to post-graduate students, especially those to be employed at the newly established Agricultural Mechanisation department and Pasture Land section.

The offer was made by Dr. Ali Atiga, UNDP resident representative in Jordan, during a visit to the university Saturday.

Atiga met with Dr. Sulaiman Arabiyat, dean of the university's faculty of agriculture, to whom he made the offer, and with whom he discussed UNDP-university cooperation in agricultural fields.

Atiga said that UNDP could help students by giving them

scholarships for M.Sc. and doctorate training courses and by purchasing equipment for training students and agricultural engineers at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Agriculture.

Dr. Arabiyat thanked UNDP and said that the offer would definitely encourage his faculty to forge ahead with scientific research and provide extension services to Jordanian farmers.

According to Dr. Naim Soobar, the dean's deputy, the faculty's new section was created in the beginning of the 1989-1990 academic year. The first batch of students will not be accepted before the next academic year when all plans and programmes have been implemented.

## NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

**LATVIAN TEAM IN AQABA:** A visiting delegation from the Soviet Republic of Latvia Saturday visited Aqaba port. The delegation, led by Latvia's Deputy Prime Minister Cepanis Alfreds, met with Aqaba Region Authority Director-General Bassam Director Qarshi, who briefed its members on Aqaba's developments and projects and tourist facilities. The delegation members visited the Aqaba marine science station and several factories located in the Aqaba region. (Petra)

**UPU COMPETITION:** The Universal Postal Union (UPU) is organising a competition in postage stamp designing, a spokesman for the Post Office and Postal Saving Corporation said. Those interested should contact the corporation's concerned section to make necessary arrangements.

**BOOK EXHIBITION:** A national book exhibition was opened at Madaba Saturday. The week-long exhibition, being held at Raya Bint Al Hussein School for Girls, displays political, economic and social books in addition to children's books. The proceeds of the exhibition will benefit school libraries in Madaba district.

**U.S. PUBLICATIONS:** An exhibition of modern American publications and books was opened at the University of Jordan Saturday by university President Dr. Mahmud Al Samra and in the presence of U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth. The week-long exhibition displays 400 books by modern American writers in science and technology, especially in engineering, medicine and agriculture. (Petra)

**CEMENT EXPORTS:** Jordan recently exported a total of 22,500 tonnes of cement to Egypt, as part of an agreement signed between the two countries which provides for exporting 750,000 tonnes of cement. A total of 290,000 tonnes has so far been exported within the framework of the deal. (Petra)

**MAAN-TABOUK AGREEMENT:** A delegation representing Maan Municipality will visit the Saudi Arabian city of Tabouk next month to discuss with its municipal council an agreement on twinning Maan with the Saudi city, paving the ground for bilateral cooperation in municipal and public services affairs. Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Youssef Hamdan Al Jabr has given his initial approval of the agreement. Maan Mayor Mousa Fayyad Maani said the agreement was bound to bolster ties between the two cities and their citizens and will open the way for an exchange of expertise and a sharing of experience between the two municipal councils.

**NEW BOOKS FROM U.S.:** The Department of Libraries, Documentation, and National Archives has received a collection of American books translated into Arabic as part of the existing cultural and informational exchange programme between Jordan and the United States. The collection includes about one thousand books on literature, economy, culture, information, and history. The Director of the department, Dr. Ahmad Sharaka, has praised this initiative noting that it reflects "continued spheres of cultural cooperation between the two countries and constitutes a qualitative addition to the books available at the National Central Library." He added that extra copies will be distributed to various public libraries in the Kingdom. (Petra)

**Jordan Times**  
Tel: 667171-6

## American university honours Uzeizi

AMMAN (Petra) — Veteran Jordanian writer Rox Ibn Zaid Al Uzeizi has been honoured by a San Diego University in the United States for his literary work and his translation of world literature into Arabic.

A team from the National University in San Diego visited Uzeizi at home Saturday and presented him with the university's shield in recognition of his efforts (see photo). The team also paid tribute to Uzeizi for his writings in Arabic and poetry.

A spokesman for the team said that the university's board of trustees annually selects noted writers for the award.



San Diego university has turned out a great number of Jordanian students who com-

pleted their education in engineering, computer science and business administration.



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

الجزيرة الأردنية السياسية اليومية المستقلة تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.  
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the  
Jordan Times Advertising Department.

## The road is clear

IF THERE were any lingering doubts over the course of political and parliamentary life in Jordan, then they have been rooted out with the clear position adopted by the government, upon the instructions of His Majesty King Hussein, not to bar political activists from running in the Nov. 8 elections to the Lower House of Parliament. The decision has sent a loud and clear message to everyone, including sceptics in the region as well as in the international scene, that Jordan has turned a new corner in its quest towards absorbing grass-root elements into its decision- and policy-making process.

The ball is now clearly in the court of the electorate. The King has made it clear that neither candidates nor voters should go to extremes in their enthusiasm to exercise their rights and assume their role in parliament. It is no secret that Jordan is facing many internal as well as external problems which pose grave dangers and require concerted and unified national counter-action. Awareness of the need to rally all our forces together towards achieving a solid national stand in the face of such dangers is the need of the day.

On the external front, Jordan has made clear its total support for the Arab Nation's number one cause — the Palestinian cause — and has thrown its full weight behind the efforts of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). However, with the Israeli intransigence and rejection of Palestinian rights, Jordan has always to be on guard against possible deterioration of peace efforts and its consequences.

At the domestic front, Jordan faces economic problems which warrant not only wise guidance from the deputies who will represent us in parliament but also hard work on behalf of the executive. Unless the full implications of the circumstances that led to the current crisis are researched and comprehended, chances of putting the economy back on the right track will remain slim.

Although economic issues are the priority of the day, many other aspects of life in Jordan need to be addressed. These include absorbing the reality of political exigencies, modernisation of education, abandonment of public sector hypocrisy and environmental protection, to name a few.

In sum, the responsibilities facing the legislative and executive in the next phase are enormous. The leadership has cleared the way for the people to choose their representatives — whoever that may be — and the electorate is now dutybound to send to parliament the most suitable people capable of delivering a brighter future.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Saturday discussed an address by King Hussein at Oxford University in England in which he urged all peace-loving nations of the world to work for peace in the Middle East. This is not the only lecture delivered by the King in international forums, as he had addressed the world community on other occasions and in different countries of the world — most recently in Canada, said the paper. The Oxford lecture was a link in a long chain of activities and moves by the King at all levels, in defence of the Palestinian people's rights, reminding the world community in general and the peace-loving nations in particular of their duty towards peace and towards ending all dangers that threaten security worldwide, the paper said. In his lectures the King always dwells on the need for the Palestinians to have self-determination and for the PLO to lead the Palestinian people to freedom, the paper noted. It said that the King hopes the world community will help the Palestinians recover their usurped land.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily strongly criticises statements by candidates running for the coming parliamentary elections, likening them to those that appear during or before each Arab meeting held at the local, regional, or pan-Arab levels. Hossni Ayyash says that each one of the candidates has put up statements that look alike, and each tackle such questions as liberation of Palestine, stimulation of the national economy, Islam ... as a solution for all problems, ending unemployment etc. The writer says that all these candidates give the voters empty hopes and do not tell the electorate anything about the means of fulfilling all these hopes and objectives. The writer also likens the slogans appearing on posters and banners or placards in the streets of Amman and other cities and villages to the slogans of Arab political parties which give empty words without the least clue as to how they will ever be achieved. Ayyash says that political parties which focus public attention on big slogans and objectives, tend to forget the basic needs of the public they ought to serve and tend to forget the people's interests. The writer calls on the voters not to read the slogans but to deeply fathom the past of each of the candidates before giving the vote to any of them.

Al Dustour daily discussed the King's lecture at Oxford University which presented a detailed description of the situation in the Middle East, exposing Israel's atrocities and defending the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland. The paper noted that the King explained the motives behind Jordan's severance of links with the occupied West Bank and focused attention on the ongoing intifada. The paper said that the world community is being enlightened on the situation in our region by the King's speeches and is being urged to shoulder its responsibilities towards peace and security. There is no doubt as the King said, that the continued deprivation of the Palestinian people of their legitimate rights should not be allowed, specially as the PLO has offered concessions and pledged to ensure peace in the region, the paper noted. It said that Israel continues to reject the idea of swapping land for peace, and therefore it continues to accept the concept of permanent peace.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

# Election campaign and the economic crisis

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

THE SLOGANS produced so far by the election campaign mill, and showered over the heads of the electorate fall under three headings: Democracy, Palestine, and the economy. As far as the slogans are concerned, there are very little differences between the candidates competing for the votes of the public.

All candidates are for the restoration of democracy, safeguarding of the constitution, public freedoms, a state based on institutions, dependence of the judiciary, organisation of political parties and expression of opinion.

All candidates are for the Palestinian cause, support of the intifada, and all call for an independent Palestinian state on the Palestinian soil. They are for the national unity and for equal opportunities in jobs and education for all citizens irrespective of their origin.

All candidates want the economic crisis to be solved. They are strongly against unemployment and higher prices. They support subsidies for basic consumer commodities.

Measured by the slogans I can hardly say that any candidate is better than the other. One has therefore to go back to their past records, and examine the history of the candidates to see what each of them has actually done on line with her/his declared slogans, whether within the government or outside it. I am afraid that the proceeds are very meager. A large proportion of the

candidates are not even public figures, and never took a leading role in their local communities nor at the national level. They have come from nowhere thinking that their money and relatives may do the trick.

It is of course far from productive to call for extreme, unrealistic policies and to raise false hopes. It is meaningless, for example, to say we want everything to be good, just, clear, proper and perfect. Every serious candidate should distinguish himself or herself one way or another, or tell us how he or she intends to implement even one of these desired aims and objectives.

I know no one in the government or the opposition who wants more unemployment. Therefore, it is meaningless to raise a slogan that condemns unemployment. We need to be shown how more jobs can be created without worsening other illnesses of the economy; should we ask the government to expand and employ all the unemployed? In this case, how can we reduce the recurring public expenditure and the deficit as other slogans advocate. Or should we demand from companies to increase their staff? In this case what happens to the profitability, efficiency and competitiveness?

The solution to unemployment may lie in promoting private investment. But this is not an easy job. It needs the reform of the investment climate by reducing governmental intervention in

prices and by clarifying the monetary, financial, and commercial policies, and providing real and effective incentives and more guarantees for domestic and foreign capital. Unfortunately we find most slogans in circulation call for more governmental intervention and price fixing, which will definitely create more unemployment. Problems could not be easily solved simply by decisions taken in the Council of Ministers or the Parliament.

One last stop at the slogan most frequently repeated: "Demanding solutions to the economic crisis." Yes, many candidates want us to elect them simply because they will ask the government to find solutions to the economic crisis. They themselves have no solutions. They have no suggestions or recommendations.

Finally we have one good word about the slogans as related to the economy. No candidate said a word against the policy of correction, and economic restructuring adopted and implemented by the government as of this year, which implies that no set-back is expected under the pressure of a popular parliament. However one candidate demanded the cancellation of the IMF programme and disengagement from the World Bank and the IMF.

If this slogan was adopted, the only beneficiary would be the IMF and the World Bank who would save \$300 million of fresh money, and the only loser would be Jordan and its people, especially the low income groups which the candidate wants to help.

## Bush still sells in Reagan's own American heartland

By Michael Conlon

Reuters

DIXON, Illinois — As President George Bush celebrates the anniversary of his election on November 8, 1988, there are some questioning voices across the land on editorial pages and among other opinion-shapers.

But if the people of Dixon were voting for a president this year, Bush would win handily — again.

For most citizens of this small town in the American heartland, a steady economy and a good harvest mean more than Panamanian dictators, Colombian drugs, arms control or superpower politics.

There appears to be a happy complacency here, built perhaps on the belief that not much has changed since Ronald Reagan handed over to his vice-president last January 20. People like Bush's quiet, comforting style just as they once admired Reagan's sunny optimism.

Favourable comparisons with the immensely popular Reagan cannot be dismissed lightly, especially in Dixon, because this is where Ronald Reagan grew up.

Visitors still come by the thousands to tour his restored boyhood home and buy coffee cups and tee shirts at the adjoining visitor centre.

"The people around here are generally favourably disposed to Mr. Bush," said James Dixon, a Democrat and mayor of this town of 16,000 named for one of his forebears.

"I think he and his wife have shown restraint and good thought under pressure. I think they've shown they reflect pretty much the mood of the country."

Added Maria Wisner, executive director of the Reagan home: "I think everybody's happy with Bush."

Edward Higgins, editor of the editorial page of the St. Louis Post-Despatch, was not so sure. He said he believed Bush had so far benefited from a kind of public neutrality.

"We don't get a lot of mail taking strong issue with him," Higgins said. "They don't feel strongly about him one way or the other."

He said the Post-Despatch, which opposed Bush in last November's election, last assessed him after six months in office. If he wrote a follow-up editorial today, Higgins said, "it would be a little less friendly."

"He just refuses to face up to the need to provide money for the problems he identifies. And I for one was very disappointed over the flag-burning issue. I thought it was a repeat of the kind of demagoguery he engaged in the election campaign."

Higgins said Bush, in backing a constitutional amendment to outlaw flag-burning, appeared to be trying to exploit that issue "for political gain when he should be affirming the Supreme Court's stand on behalf of free expression."

The court last spring overturned a Texas law prohibiting flag-desecration as a violation of free speech rights.

Dennis Ryerson, editor of the editorial page of the Des Moines Register, saw the Bush administration as lacking in imaginative new approaches to problems like the environment, the world economy and allocation of resources, now that defence issues were less pressing.

But he admitted that the president was in strong shape politically.

"I think Democrats are now acknowledging rather glumly that this will be a two-term presidency. Employment is high, even the farm economy has been steadily recovering."

Jeffrey Cohen, a political science professor at the University of Illinois, was more critical.

"I think Bush is a sort of a coward," he said. "There's not been a policy issue that I can see where he's taken the lead."

"One example is flag-burning: part of a president's job is not just to garner support for particular policies and positions but also to teach people what a democracy is all about. And Bush has done a terrible job. He's demagogued on this issue."

"On China he's been the same way. He was the last of the major leaders to publicly blast the Chinese for probably the most horrid activity of any regime in the past decade."

But even Cohen acknowledged the mood of towns like Dixon.

"The public seems to be very supportive (of Bush). He seems to have... a large level of popularity. But I think it is really superficial compared to the popular support Reagan had."

## German Question shelved?

By Carol J. Williams  
The Associated Press

BONN, West Germany — East Germany's leadership change is a "cosmetic step" that buys time for the Communist government but will have little impact on inter-German relations or prospects for a reunited Germany, West German officials say.

Scholars and government authorities suggest it is preferable to preserve the inter-German status quo than to leap ahead to sweeping changes that could destabilise East Germany and Europe's political and military alliances.

The East German Communist Party's choice of Egon Krenz to succeed the ageing and infirm Erich Honecker is widely viewed in West Germany as a transitional step, rather than a long-term solution. Krenz, 52, shares the hard-line political views of his 77-year-old mentor Honecker, who had been in power since 1971.

"I share the broad scepticism of many that Egon Krenz is any more disposed to reform than Honecker was. This change appears more a cosmetic step," Detlef Kuehn, head of the Inter-German Institute in Bonn, told the Associated Press in an interview.

Krenz's first speech after he took over Wednesday showed "there will have to be another change at the top before any matters of inter-German relations are reconsidered," Kuehn co-tened.

In the nationally televised address, Krenz blamed West Germany for the tight restrictions on foreign travel imposed on East Germans by the Communist government. Travel rights are one of the most pressing demands of the country's grassroots reform movement.

West Germany offers citizenship to all people of German origin, and this has encouraged an exodus of East Germans

in recent months through the more porous borders of other East European nations.

More than 55,000 East Germans — many of them vital to the Socialist state's labour-short industries — have fled West since July, the majority over Hungary's border to Austria, others via West German embassies in Prague and Warsaw.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl has offered to increase Bonn's already substantial financial aid to East Germany if it relaxes restrictions on travel, free speech and political activity. The hope is that a more democratic atmosphere in East Germany would stem the westward migration that is embarrassing for East Germany and costly for West Germany in terms of resettlement subsidies.

But East German officials have rejected Kohl's proposal, calling it an attempt to undermine state sovereignty. Kohl's chief of staff, Rudolf Seiters, said Wednesday that Bonn must move cautiously in efforts to induce Krenz to adopt reforms.

Officials in the inter-German affairs ministry in Bonn concede privately that democracy would have the effect of destabilising East Germany's rigidly controlled political system.

East Germany did not exist as a sovereign state until Communism was imposed by the Soviet occupation forces after World War II. Still, family ties and a shared heritage remain strong across the barriers.

If a less-authoritarian political system were to evolve in East Germany, there would be strong pressure from the people in both German states to reunite the country. West Germany, with a population of 62 million, is far richer than East Germany, which has 17 million citizens.

In the latest sign of West German support, nearly 63 per cent of people who participated in a phone-in poll of TV viewers

Thursday night by the ARD network said they favoured eventual reunification.

Because East Germany belongs to the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact and West Germany to the U.S.-led NATO alliance, reunification would mean altering political and military alliances that have helped maintain the continent's longest period of peace.



Faced with overwhelming military superiority, President Bush signs the official articles of surrender before drug cartel generals in the Oval Office.

## Detente means less business for U.S. defence contractors

By Steve Holland  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — As developing detente between the United States and the Soviet Union eases fears of war, Americans appear less concerned about maintaining the pace of the defence buildup begun by former President Ronald Reagan in 1981.

Resulting budget reductions are worrying the companies that make the nation's weapons. Sensing a lull in arms manufacturing are turning from feasting to frenzied lobbying in Washington for more defence dollars.

Monitoring the pulse of defence contractors is Stan Colander, director of Federal Budget Policy at the Price Waterhouse accounting firm.

"For the first time since I've been doing the budget, they're vitally concerned about this," said Colander, who speaks to audiences around the country about defence costs.

"There hasn't been any audience in six months in which someone didn't say, 'can't we reduce spending for defence because of the changes going on in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union?'" he said in an interview. "They

think this means that we ought to do something about defence."

Colander holds regular sessions with defence contractors, including one recently attended by Congressman Les Aspin, chairman of the House of Representatives armed services committee.

"Les Aspin did mention that the fact peace was breaking out was making it more difficult to get more defence dollars. You could see jaws dropping from some of the defence contractors there when he said that."

Cost consciousness is rising at a time when the price of a single aircraft, the new Stealth bomber, is \$530 million. The Stealth is so expensive and has such sensitive technology that experts say it is unlikely to be used for military situations other than World War III.

The \$70-billion Stealth programme is nearly 10 times the size of President Bush's budget for the war against drugs, which he has called the gravest domestic threat to the nation.

Colander says the country is seeing the beginning of a few years of shrinking defence budget, and that companies are already quarrelling over a smaller

pie. "It's a question of fighting over the smaller pieces. Previously, they just assumed the money would be there somehow. Now, you've got contractors not just bidding against each other for contracts. They're having to realise that what they're currently getting is about the most they're going to get for a while," he said.

The Pentagon, whose \$300-billion a year budget is by far the biggest budget item, appears to be coming around to the idea that Reagan's defence buildup cannot continue given the changing relationship between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

"I think that if the Soviet Union reduces its forces, then we will have a smaller force," said army chief of staff General Carl Vuono.

Defence analysts say some companies are already suffering from the industry's severe overcapacity and runaway development costs that are no longer automatically passed on to the government.

They said defence companies on the market are finding few buyers, and that many companies now for sale are undervalued by as much as 25 per cent.

## Indians draw battle lines

By Earleen Fisher  
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI, India — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and his fractious opposition are drawing their battle lines as the deadline approaches for calling national elections.

The issues sharpened in the past few days with new accusations of high-level deceit and ineptitude involving the Gandhi government's \$1.4-billion purchase of artillery from the Swedish company AB Bofors. At the same time, a dispute over the power of grassroots government groups could give Gandhi a campaign rallying cry.

The Bofors scandal, in which newspapers and opposition politicians allege that Bofors paid as much as \$50 million in kickbacks to clinch the 1986 arms contract, has been alternately simmering and boiling for 2½ years. But with parliamentary elections due no later than January and speculation heightening that the date will be set any day now, the opposition has seized upon Bofors with renewed intensity. (On Tuesday Gandhi called elections on Nov. 22 and 24).

Bofors came to a boil again on Friday, the same day Gandhi failed to push through parliament one of his pet projects — a constitutional amendment to give greater powers to grassroots governmental groups.

It was the first time in 21 years and only the second time in India's 42 years of independence that a government motion had failed.

Gandhi's Congress Party mustered 158 votes to the opposition parties' 83 in parliament's upper house, but it fell three votes short of the necessary two-thirds majority in a midnight Friday vote.

Ironically, this defeat could give Gandhi a boost in the campaign, fuelling his offensive against those who opposed his bill on "panchayat raj." The term's literal meaning is "five-man rule," a name derived from traditional village councils composed of five men.

"If the Congress-I (the I stands for Gandhi's predecessor and mother, Indira Gandhi) so far lacked a catchy election slogan, it now has one because, in rural and urban India, great expectations had been roused that the panchayat raj and local self-government institutions would be democratised and revitalised," the Hindustan Times said in a front-page story Saturday.

Gandhi and his Congress Party billed panchayat raj as a power-to-the-people programme, but the opposition maintained it was actually designed to strip state governments of their power and extend federal control to local levels.

Vishwanath Pratap Singh, Gandhi's foremost political foe,

said Saturday the national front coalition of opposition parties would come up with its own — and "much better" — Panchayat Raj Bill.

Singh, who once belonged to Gandhi's Congress Party and served as his defence and finance minister, now heads the Janata Dal (People's Party) and is the national front's "convenor," a top position. It is indicative of the coalition's internal rivalries and its need to placate egos that it also has a chairman and a president.

The failure of Gandhi's panchayat raj amendment came about 12 hours after parliament had again debated the Bofors issue, with the opposition's usual demands for Gandhi to resign over the alleged kickbacks.

The latest Bofors debate was sparked by reports carried by the Statesman, Indian Express and other newspapers that senior members of the Gandhi government had "colluded" with Bofors to conceal the identity of a Swiss-based company that allegedly received a \$12-million payoff for helping Bofors snatch the 1986 arms contract from other bidders.

Exactly where any such payoffs went is the mystery. Since 1967, newspapers and opposition politicians have charged that Bofors paid up to \$50 million in "commissions" or kickbacks that ultimately ended up in the hands of Indians, some of them close to

Gandhi or the Congress Party. Gandhi has repeatedly denied that any commissions were paid or that any Indians received payoffs.

While the 45-year-old former airline pilot has not been accused of personally receiving kickbacks, he has been pilloried for allowing such alleged payoffs to happen.

With 880 million people, India is the world's largest democracy, but it is an unruly one. The Congress Party, founded by Gandhi's grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru, has governed India for all but three years since the Asian subcontinent was freed from British colonial rule in 1947.

Other parties have usually been fractured along regional, religious and ideological lines, rarely able to come together with a unified voice. According to UNICEF and other statistics, about 40 per cent of all adults are illiterate. Reports of voting influenced by fraud and thuggery recur with election.

Expectations that an election date would be set soon rose when parliament adjourned its monsoon session Friday night. The next step is the dissolution of parliament by President Ramaswamy Venkataraman, whose largely ceremonial post is awarded by the prime minister's cabinet.

Once parliament is dissolved, the election commission must set a date to vote for new legislators.



## Focus on People

By Mariam M. Shahin

## A guestworker speaks

"GUESTWORKERS" have become a common and sometimes troublesome phenomenon in many Western European countries. Foreign workers, be they Turks and Yugoslavians in West Germany, Indians and Pakistanis in Britain, and North African Arabs in France have been the subject of many a newspaper article, news documentary and, most recently, non-fiction novels. Their fate, as mostly underpaid unskilled labourers, has, been in many cases, adopted as a rally cry for socially-oriented political platforms while those who claim to represent the more right-wing free market economy platform call them a new burden to society at a time of economic stress (many critics see Thatcher in Britain and Le Pen in France as two examples of the latter). The truth of the matter is that the "guestworkers," as they are called, were literally asked to come to their respective host countries in times of economic prosperity. But as the prosperity became less the "guestworkers," many of whom had spent 20 or more years in their host country, were being asked to go home. They were no longer seen as welcome "semi-servants," doing the jobs no native wanted to do, but rather as reasons for unemployment and beneficiaries of social security benefits that everyone was paying for.

After the economic boom that occurred in the post-1973 era, Jordan too became an "importer" of porters, gardeners, labourers, maids, cooks, nannies and the like. Coming from Egypt, the Philippines, Korea, India and, more recently, Sri Lanka, those who are involved in "domestic services" have often become a major source of satisfaction, worry, comfort, discomfort, but most of all talk for the people whom they "serve." Government policies of increasing the cost of work and residence permits as well as the decrease in monetary attraction to the foreign workers after the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar have cut down the number of foreign workers considerably.

Non-Jordanian Arab workers have been less of a target of those demanding for reduction in the foreign workforce in an attempt to address the unemployment of Jordanians. Sharing a common heritage, language and more often than not religion, the non-Jordanian Arab worker in Jordan who is most likely to be Egyptian has worked hard for his money, served his purpose and for the most part remained an onlooker in the host country.

At present there are an estimated 100,000 Egyptian workers residing in Jordan, the vast majority of them men. They occupy a variety of jobs: some are labourers, gardeners, bell boys, farmers or house watchmen while yet others are auto-mechanics, television repairmen and painters.

One such Egyptian guestworker is Saed (his last name is not important according to him). He works 12 to 14 hours a day, seven days a week, four weeks a month, 12 months a year as a houseguard, gardener, babysitter, housekeeper and soccer goalie. This week he consented to talk to FOCUS ON PEOPLE about his life in Jordan, his hopes for the future and the family he left behind.

Life in the Sharmia, a district of Cairo, "about the size of Jordan" as he puts it was very different for Saed than life today in an unheated concrete room in central Shmeisani. Surrounded by his parents and nine siblings, Saed started work as a farmhand when he was nine. Farming rice is the family trade for Saed and his father, who owns the equivalent of eight dunams and farm 10 dunams of their neighbour (who is too old to do it

himself and has no living sons to help him farm his land).

"My older brother and I went to work early on with our father because he needed help," Saed said. "The family needed more money because my mother was having one child every year and so there was no time for school, there was only time for work and food. Three of my nine brothers died because they got sick and there were no doctors around to give us the right medicine. But the rest survived."

He also recalls that four years ago, when times became tougher, a friend told him about the good working opportunities for Egyptians in Jordan. Saed was put in touch with a sponsor and arrived in Amman in the winter of 1985. Since his arrival, he has been officially employed as the house guard of an apartment complex belonging to one extended family comprised of six units. Every year his sponsor, who owns the apartment complex, renews his work and residence permits for him.

Unlike many of his compatriots Saed has not been hassled in any way or form by the authorities. "I am in Jordan legally," he pointed out.

He calls his ten-by-ten feet room home. There is a shower and an Arab-style toilet as well as a gas-cooker. He sleeps on a mattress placed on a wooden frame bed and has half torn pictures of blond, blue eyed children and landscapes of the Canadian landscape on the walls. There is no lamp shade on the singular bulb that hangs down in the middle of the room. A tiny television set receives Jordanian TV stations clearly. The "Syrian station is not so clear," Saed seemed a little peeved.

Unlike the rooms in the rest of the building, Saed's "home" contains no refrigerator, no washing machine and no dishwasher.

"I have many friends in Jordan," Saed is proud. "There are at least 10 other Egyptian workers living on the same street as me. They all have jobs and like me send money back home. We see each other almost every day. Some come and play soccer with me. When I play with the children I am the goalie."

Besides guarding the building, Saed runs errands, buying everything from groceries to school supplies. He plays with the smaller children in the yard when their mothers go for social visits, plays soccer with the older ones and tends to the garden at the end of the house.

At 25, Saed has managed, over the past four years, to save one third of his salary, which is at present JD 90 a month. He spent the rest to educate and sustain his younger siblings although he has never learnt to read and write more than numbers and his name. His father's name and his grandfather's name.

His aim is to get married as soon as his monetary situation allows him to.

Although in his home in the Egyptian countryside the bride's father tools the bill for most of the expenses of a marriage, the bridegroom must offer to pay for at least some of his marriage expenses. Saed was a major contributor to the marriage of his two younger sisters and his older brother, who also works as a house guard in Jordan.

His dream of going home began the second day after he arrived in Jordan.

"I dream of the day when I return to Sharmia, get married have my own home and open my own little business. If God allows all will be well."

By Lee Siegel  
The Associated Press

LONG BEACH, California — Scores of Cambodians complain they are blind or suffer blurry vision although their eyes are normal — a malady some experts blame on the horrors they witnessed in their homeland.

The majority of the refugees with vision complaints are 40- to 70-year-old women who fled the Khmer Rouge, which was toppled a decade ago.

"These women saw things that their minds just could not accept," said psychology professor Patricia Rozee-Koker of California State University at Long Beach.

"Seventy per cent of the women had their immediate family killed before their eyes," Rozee-Koker said of the 150 Khmer Rouge victims with vision complaints she has examined.

"So their minds simply closed down, and they refused to see anymore — refused to see any more death, any more torture, any more rape, any more starvation."

Experts believe the refugees suffer hysterical, psychosomatic or functional blindness, in which psychological turmoil spurs people with normal eyes to believe they are blind or see poorly.

Many of the Cambodians also show signs of severe depression and post-traumatic stress disorder, which afflicted many American veterans of the Vietnam war, Rozee-Koker said.

However, eye doctors say it is very difficult to distinguish patients with hysterical vision loss from malingers who fake blindness to obtain disability benefits, attention or sympathy.

Dr. Hector Sult of Long Beach, who has examined many of the patients over several years, questions whether psychological vision problems were triggered by sights of mass murder in Cambodia, or by trauma endured by Khmer-speaking Cambodian peasants adjusting to U.S. life.

Dr. Michael F. Marmor, ophthalmology chairman at Stanford University school of medicine, said Cambodians examined there: "for the most part were not consciously malingering, although it's almost impossible to rule out."

Hundreds of thousands of Cambodians were killed from 1975 to 1978 by Pol Pot's fanatical communist Khmer Rouge, who tried to transform the nation into an agrarian commune until Vietnam ousted them with an invasion that lasted from late 1978 until last month.

The turmoil caused nearly 200,000 Cambodians to flee to the United States.

Hysterical blindness has been reported among shellshocked soldiers during World War I, children of divorced parents, and people involved in traffic accidents.

Five years ago, the unusual number of female Cambodian refugees with psychosomatic vision problems was noticed by Gretchen Van Boemel, an electrophysicologist at Doheny Eye Institute in Los Angeles.

She contacted Rozee-Koker, an old friend, and together they identified about 150 Cambodian refugees in Long Beach who claim blindness or blurred vision.

"One woman saw her four children and husband killed in front of her, then lost her vision right after," Van Boemel said. "One woman watched her husband and three children taken away in 1975. They never returned. She reported she cried daily for four years, then she stopped crying and couldn't see."

About 15 per cent of the women said they were blind — with no perception of light — and the rest claimed varying degrees of blurry vision, she added.

War trauma

At Stanford, Marmor and Dr. Michael Drinnan examined a number of people with psychosomatic blindness during the last two years.

"There were more Southeast Asians with functional vision loss than other members of society, and almost all seem to be Cambodians," a majority of them women, Marmor said. "Most had some perception of light, but they ranged widely over what they could see. We speculated this may have to do with war trauma."

Rozee-Koker and Van Boemel initially interviewed 30 Cambodian women through an interpreter, and found those with the worst vision spent the most time living under the Khmer Rouge or in refugee camps.

"The women's trauma history was extreme," Rozee-Koker said. "They had lost several to all of their relatives. They experienced beatings, starvation, forced labour, humiliations, separation from their families." She also suspects the women may have been raped.

"To know whether the Cambodians war was the cause of this would really take some scientific scrutiny, particularly when we have such a different social situation and culture to understand," said Dr. John Keltner, ophthalmology chairman of the University of California at Davis.

Since 1977, Keltner and colleagues examined 137 patients who complained of vision problems but had healthy eyes. They included Laotian refugees but not Cambodians. Most were faking to obtain disability payments or awards in lawsuits, Keltner said.

Nelson studied eight Cambodians to determine if their vision complaints were sincere.

"Some had applied for disability, but some months before their vision loss," he said. "In five cases, the patients were given a diagnosis of major depression," and two more also probably suffered it.

Van Boemel said most of the women she studied also suffered psychosomatic headaches, dizziness, general malaise and stomach cramps.

Two years ago, Van Boemel and Rozee-Koker placed five of the women in group psychotherapy, while five others participated in a group where they learned survival skills: How to call police, shop and ride buses.

After 10 weekly sessions, about three-fifths of the women reported improved vision and reduced depression, Rozee-Koker said.

Sult said some Cambodians get better without treatment. He refers many to mental health clinics, but "the system is not there to help them" with long-term counselling, he said.

## Stories that blind

By Lee Siegel  
The Associated Press

LONG BEACH, California — Scores of Cambodians complain they are blind or suffer blurry vision although their eyes are normal — a malady some experts blame on the horrors they witnessed in their homeland.

The majority of the refugees with vision complaints are 40- to 70-year-old women who fled the Khmer Rouge, which was toppled a decade ago.

"These women saw things that their minds just could not accept," said psychology professor Patricia Rozee-Koker of California State University at Long Beach.

"Seventy per cent of the women had their immediate family killed before their eyes," Rozee-Koker said of the 150 Khmer Rouge victims with vision complaints she has examined.

"So their minds simply closed down, and they refused to see anymore — refused to see any more death, any more torture, any more rape, any more starvation."

Experts believe the refugees suffer hysterical, psychosomatic or functional blindness, in which psychological turmoil spurs people with normal eyes to believe they are blind or see poorly.

Many of the Cambodians also show signs of severe depression and post-traumatic stress disorder, which afflicted many American veterans of the Vietnam war, Rozee-Koker said.

However, eye doctors say it is very difficult to distinguish patients with hysterical vision loss from malingers who fake blindness to obtain disability benefits, attention or sympathy.

Dr. Hector Sult of Long Beach, who has examined many of the patients over several years, questions whether psychological vision problems were triggered by sights of mass murder in Cambodia, or by trauma endured by Khmer-speaking Cambodian peasants adjusting to U.S. life.

Dr. Michael F. Marmor, ophthalmology chairman at Stanford University school of medicine, said Cambodians examined there: "for the most part were not consciously malingering, although it's almost impossible to rule out."

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## Prospects for migrants in the post 1992 era

THE EUROPEAN Community's single market of 1992 is a subject of great hopes and some anxiety. Most people expect their personal welfare to benefit from the spur to economic growth and unbundled across-the-border movement of labour, goods, services and capital. But mergers or bankruptcies and the introduction of new technology might happen at an accelerated pace, causing displacement of workers

right down the job ladder. For migrant labour the upheavals after 1992 spell particular uncertainties and conflicting perspectives. There are now close to 13 million migrants and their families in the EC region, including nearly 8 million nationals of non-member states. The problem is that the Single European Act of 1987 does not guarantee freedom of movement for workers and entrepreneurs

from non-member countries, leaving it up to EC governments to work it out somehow among themselves. As things stand, equal status is at least a decade away for migrants from countries seeking to join the Community or establish special relations with it — such as Austria, Morocco, Norway, Sweden and Turkey. Meanwhile, their nationals residing in the EC today will be excluded from the

benefits the Community bestows on its citizens. This applies even more to migrants from countries not aspiring to EC membership — Algerians, Tunisians, Yugoslavs, West Africans or, for that matter, Swiss and Americans. Small wonder that all these millions of people are beginning to worry that instead of a frontier-free Europe a "Fortress Europe" will shut them out as workers and employers.

On the other hand, some experts believe that this "worst case scenario" is highly unlikely. They point out that the status of migrants from non-Community countries is not questioned by governments, that with very few exceptions foreigners are immune from expulsion and that after 1992 they can actually gain from the expansion of job opportunities. Much of the current debate on

this complex issue is groping in the dark, for very little is known about the basic question: what trends and prospects will there be for migrant labour in the EC after 1992? A recent informal meeting of migration specialists convened by the ILO attempted to provide some answers, which are summed up in a report just published. Highlights: — 1992 is not likely to set off

large-scale migration movements of the kind experienced in the 1960s and early 1970s, whether from one EC state to another or from outside the Community. But Portuguese workers might be drawn to France, for example, in greater numbers than at present. — Unskilled manual or service workers will be even less in demand after 1992 than they are today.

— Highly qualified professionals will probably move around in larger numbers than before, either on their own (such as doctors) or because their enterprises relocate or set up sales or production units in other EC countries. The need for well-educated and mobile manpower might not lead to the displacement of Swiss or U.S. citizens, for instance, and it might open the door to highly qualified specialists from the Third World.

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# Britain blocks Commonwealth sanctions against S. Africa

**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)** — Britain Saturday accused Commonwealth nations of being "wrong-headed" as the 49-nation summit finalised a new strategy for increasing financial pressure on South Africa.

But British Foreign Secretary John Major said the Commonwealth had recognised for the first time that sanctions should not be punitive and should be scaled down if the white-led government delivers on promises of reform.

In a separate development, the Commonwealth summit issued a declaration on the environment which, in a victory for the developed nations, failed to lead outright support to an Indian demand that it establish a new environmental fund.

Major said the draft communiqué on South Africa reflected a "carrot and stick" approach.

"(It) is a novel recognition that change is beginning, that change is welcome and that, we do not wish to hand a broken-backed economy over to a new South

Africa in due course," Major said in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corp.

The draft was drawn up after a 10-nation foreign ministers' committee — including Britain — argued into the early hours of the morning Saturday in what diplomatic sources called "robust" exchanges.

While the dispute continued, the outcome appeared likely to reflect the first signs of consensus on a policy toward South Africa by the association of Britain and its former colonies.

Commonwealth leaders debated the South Africa draft Saturday during a weekend retreat at Langkawi, a luxury resort island 350 kilometres northwest of Kuala Lumpur, midway through the weeklong summit.

Malaysian officials said the final communiqué would be issued Sunday.

Diplomatic sources said the draft incorporated the essence of a five-point Australian plan stipulating that the Commonwealth will try to squeeze South Africa's foreign loans and trade credits.

The draft, the sources said, also stipulates that a reappointed committee of eight foreign ministers, which has monitored sanctions for the past two years, will meet next April to examine how far the South African government has moved toward reform.

Britain dissented both on the attempt to tighten financial sanctions now and on the reappointment of the Foreign Ministers' Committee, with its suggestion of an informal deadline for reforms or more sanctions.

British sources labelled the committee a "talking shop," and said it was "not balanced."

The committee, now expanded to nine including subcommittee host Malaysia, is chaired by Canada and includes four of Pretoria's most hostile critics, the black African nations of Zimbabwe, Zambia, Nigeria and Tanzania.

Britain joined the group Kuala Lumpur to draft the South African Committee. But it refused to become a permanent member of the committee, first appointed at a Commonwealth summit in Vancouver in 1987.

**Queen leaves Malaysia**

Meanwhile Britain's Queen Elizabeth II left for home Saturday after a four-day state visit to Malaysia during the Commonwealth summit.

The queen visited Malaysia on Oct. 14-18. She met with Malaysia's Yang Di-Pertuan Agong (King) Sultan Raja Azlan Shah and toured the northern Malaysian towns of Ipoh, Lumut and Kuala Kangsar.

She was present for the week-long biennial summit meeting of Britain and its former colonies.

The Commonwealth members, who acknowledge the queen as a symbolic head, were received by her and given a banquet.

Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar Baba bid farewell to Queen Elizabeth at the airport.

## U.S. praises Warsaw Pact proposal on inspection

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The State Department has praised a proposal by the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact on military inspections in Europe and said it was similar to a plan suggested by NATO.

But at least two major differences have surfaced over suggestions for reductions in troops and weapons.

The Soviets and their allies called for limits on military budgets and a freeze on modernising military airfields and bases, said U.S. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The officials said it was virtually impossible to make accurate comparisons between East and West military spending. They also said the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation needs flexibility

in improving its installations.

One example is the current restructuring at a base in Italy in order to deploy F16 jet fighter planes being transferred from Spain. "You don't want to find yourself down the road with your physical plants run down," one of the U.S. officials said.

The Warsaw Pact's acceptance of the U.S. proposal for permanent inspections of military installations, including key transit points, could cause friction within NATO ranks.

Two key members, Britain and France, are opposed to the concept as promoted by the United States and now the Soviet Union.

Negotiations among 23 nations in Vienna are designed to reduce troops, tanks, artillery and other

non-nuclear weapons across Europe.

The warm U.S. reaction to the East's proposal is expected to give arms control initiatives a boost.

One major issue awaiting settlement is how to verify current levels of troops and weapons and subsequent reductions under a treaty President George Bush has predicted would be completed by next May.

Bush called for a ceiling of 275,000 on U.S. and Soviet troops in the area. NATO also proposed last summer that the two alliances be limited to 20,000 tanks, 16,500 artillery and 3,800 aircraft.

The Warsaw Pact has not

offered a formal response, but Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has indicated he favours across-the-board reductions in the non-nuclear armaments deployed by both East and West.

The pact called for permanent inspection of military facilities, including transit points, short-notice, random checks that could not be blocked, and restraints on military exercises.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler, reacting to the Warsaw Pact proposal, said, "the East proposals on verification appear to be based on the concepts that NATO presented. We are pleased that the Warsaw Pact approach to verification appears to parallel that of NATO."

## 2nd Soviet plane crashes in 3 days, killing 17

**MOSCOW (R)** — A Soviet Ilyushin-76 transport plane slammed into a mountain in the southern Republic of Armenia, killing all 17 people aboard, in the second crash in three days involving that type of aircraft.

Soviet television said Friday the aircraft was carrying building materials from the Volga city of Ulyanovsk to Leninakan, Armenia's second largest city, which

was devastated by last December's earthquake.

The plane, a workhorse in the Soviet transport fleet, crashed at 1.32 a.m. just 18 kilometres short of the airport. The government daily Izvestia said seven crew members, three trainee crew members and seven passengers died.

No reason was given for the accident and a government com-

mission was set up to investigate.

On Wednesday, an Ilyushin-76 carrying troops in the Republic of Azerbaijan plunged into the Caspian Sea, killing all 57 people on board.

Troops have been sent in increasing numbers to the neighbouring Republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan to deal with increased violence over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Kar-

bakh. At least 120 people have died in 20 months of unrest in the region.

Izvestia quoted an air force spokesman as saying that one of the aircraft's engines had caught fire five or six minutes after taking off from a military airfield.

The pilot tried to turn back, but the plane plunged into the water five or six kilometres from the airfield.

## Contras accused of disrupting voter registration

**MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP)** — The ruling Sandinista Front filed a complaint accusing contra rebels of demanding at gunpoint that peasants vote for the opposition in February general elections, electoral authorities have said.

A spokesman for the United National Opposition, or UNO, the main opposition coalition, called the allegation a propaganda manoeuvre but said it would be investigated.

"The Supreme Electoral Council will conduct an investigation of the accusations in all the places where the incidents are said to have happened," council spokeswoman Ileana Mainera said. Bayardo Arce, the Sandinista National Liberation Front cam-

paign chief, told the council that rebels are using "armed actions, intimidating and threatening peasants in war zones so that they will register and vote for UNO," the Sandinista newspaper Barricada said.

About 1.3 million Nicaraguans registered the first three Sundays this month to vote in the Feb. 25, 1990, elections. The last day of registration is this Sunday.

A Defence Ministry source said Thursday rebels had stopped buses, robbed passengers and urged them to vote for UNO presidential candidate Violeta Barrios de Chamorro. She is the main opposition to President Daniel Ortega, who is running for re-election.

Barricada, said incidents "had occurred in 20 towns in nine provinces. They include communities along the Rio Coco, which forms more than half the Nicaraguan-Honduran border."

At least 15 voter registration tables have had to be moved to safer places because of threats and at least 47 operated irregularly, the complaint said.

Barricada's report on the complaint said a rebel group took over a Protestant Church in the town of Los Guindos in the northern province of Nueva Segovia and urged the congregation to vote for Mrs. Chamorro. Other rebels are going house to house threatening to kill anyone who votes for the Sandinistas, it said.

Jose Antonio Acuna, president of a council regional office, said seven registration tables in the southern provinces of Chontales and Boaco have been moved for this Sunday "because of threats from the contras." He was contacted in Chontales.

Arce asked the council to tell UNO to have the incidents stopped "and if it doesn't, its obligation is to say publicly they are not authorised and condemn these actions," Barricada said.

Luis Sanchez Sancho of the Socialist Party, the opposition spokesman, said UNO would investigate the allegation "because that situation hurts us because it creates a climate of mistrust that only favours the Sandinistas."

### WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Typhoon leaves 17 dead in Philippines

**MANILA (AP)** — Typhoon Elsie headed for China's southern island province of Hainan Saturday after killing at least 17 people and leaving more than 60,000 homeless in the northern Philippines, officials said. The Manila Weather Bureau said Elsie was packing winds of 204 kilometres per-hour when it blew ashore Thursday, but had since weakened to 120 kilometres per-hour. If Elsie maintained its westward course at 17 kilometres per-hour, it would hit Hainan by Monday, said Meteorologist Felio Bartolome.

#### China willing to meet Dalai Lama

**LHASA (R)** — China is still willing to meet Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, to negotiate an end to his exile but on condition he renounces any idea of independence for his homeland, a Chinese official said. Despite an explosion of anti-Chinese protest and the imposition of martial law in Lhasa in March, Peking stood by its offer made last year that it was ready to hold talks anywhere at any time, said Gong Liefu, spokesman for Tibet's regional government. "But the Dalai Lama must recognise that Tibet is an inseparable part of China. That is the most important question," Gong said in an interview Friday.

#### U.S. shuttle crew makes movie

**HOUSTON (R)** — The crew of the American space shuttle Atlantis spent part of its work day making a movie, using a special 70mm camera to shoot scenes around the world for a film on the Earth's environment. The movie, which will be called "Blue Planet," is being produced by Toronto-based Imax Systems Corp in cooperation with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and will premiere at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington next September. Some of the scenes filmed from 185 miles (300 km) above Earth Friday included shots of North and South Korea, Japan, Typhoon Elsie in the Sea of Japan and Dallas, Texas. This is the fifth shuttle mission on which Imax footage has been shot.

#### 1st Indian contingent leaves Sri Lanka

**COLOMBO (R)** — A first contingent of Indian soldiers left Sri Lanka Friday under the phased withdrawal of the Indian peace keeping force agreed by Colombo and New Delhi in September, military sources said. They said about 1,000 Indian soldiers deployed in the Eastern Ampara district left aboard the ship M.V. Akbar from the Eastern port of Trincomalee. The sources said at least 25 people were murdered and seven state buildings were damaged in different parts of the island in the 24 hours up to Saturday morning.

#### KGB plans to cut Soviet border zone

**MOSCOW (AP)** — The KGB plans to cut the restricted border zones it guards to a tenth of their current size and take down the barbed wire in many areas, top officials of the agency has told a Soviet legislative committee. Border-crossing procedures will also be simplified, TASS said in a report on Friday's session of the new committee that oversees the KGB and the Defence Ministry. Vladimir A. Kryuchkov, chairman of the security service, told the panel there was no reason to maintain such a large border zone, the news agency said. It did not specify the total area of the zone that the 200,000 KGB border guards protect now, or how it will be reduced in the future.

#### Soldiers charged in artillery accident

**FORT SILL, Oklahoma (AP)** — The army charged two soldiers with negligent homicide for using too much powder in an artillery round that strayed and killed three soldiers last month, officials have said. Sgt. Edward C. Tyler, 26, of Washington, D.C., and Spec. Nickoles W. Holly, 24, of Canton, Ohio, were told Wednesday that they were being charged in military court with negligent homicide and dereliction of duty through negligence, said Sheila Samples, a spokeswoman at Fort Sill. The stray round struck near 80 soldiers on a rifle range outside the target area and injured 24 as well as killing three.

## 2 more await extradition as blast injures 6 Colombians

**BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)** — Two suspected drug traffickers have been brought to the capital for extradition to the United States, and a car bomb explosion blamed on cocaine-smuggling cartels has seriously injured six people.

Police said in an official communiqué Friday that Nelson Cuevas Ramirez, 35, captured in Cartagena Thursday, was wanted by a U.S. court on charges of possessing cocaine and conspiring to sell it.

Cuevas Ramirez declared his innocence late Friday before reporters at a Bogota police station. "I am a legitimate businessman and have a clear conscience," he said shortly after his transfer to the capital.

Authorities said they had initiated extradition proceedings against Cuevas Ramirez and another drug trafficking suspect, Robert James Sokolowski Salas, captured Thursday near the port city of Barranquilla. Sokolowski, also wanted by the United States on drug charges, was being held at a Bogota jail.

The U.S. Justice Department said that Sokolowski's real name was Robert Sokol Jr. and that a federal court in Greensboro, North Carolina, had charged him in 1984 with conspiracy to distribute cocaine.

A department spokesman, Daniel Eramian, said that Sokol was born in Colombia but was believed to hold both U.S. and Colombian passports.

Sokol was arrested at the Cerrejón Coal Mine, in the Guajira peninsula north east of Barranquilla. He was found in the

offices of Interior, a U.S. company involved with a Colombian firm in a multibillion-dollar coal mining venture.

The national radio chain Caracol said the suspect had been working for Interior, but police did not confirm the report.

Since launching an anti-drug crusade Aug. 19, one day after the assassination of a leading presidential candidate, the government of President Virgilio Barco already has extradited four suspected traffickers to the United States.

The country's powerful cocaine smugglers have reacted to the extraditions with a wave of bombings and killings nationwide. The latest explosion blamed on traffickers rocked a hotel in Barranquilla Friday, seriously injuring five employees and one Colombian guest.

Authorities said they arrested one of two suspects who parked a subcompact Renault car packed with some 45 kilograms of dynamite near the Royal Hotel shortly before the vehicle exploded.

Police identified the suspect as Jose Arena Ramirez, 24. An army general said he apparently was working for drug traffickers.

"I believe that traffickers are responsible for the bombing," said Gen. Juan Salcedo Lora, the commander of the brigade based in the city. He spoke in a live radio interview broadcast by Caracol.

Authorities have blamed traffickers for many of the 165 blasts that have shaken Colombia in recent months, killing 16 people and injuring 201.

## Antarctic conference reaches compromise

**PARIS (R)** — An international conference on Antarctica has come up with a last-minute compromise on the idea of declaring the ice continent a wilderness park.

Supporters and opponents of the plan, aimed at protecting Antarctica's fragile environment, both claimed success after delegates said they agreed to mention the park idea in a statement winding up the 12-day meeting.

"At the last minute we accepted a reference to a nature reserve," said John Heap, Britain's chief representative at the conference of 39 Antarctic treaty member countries.

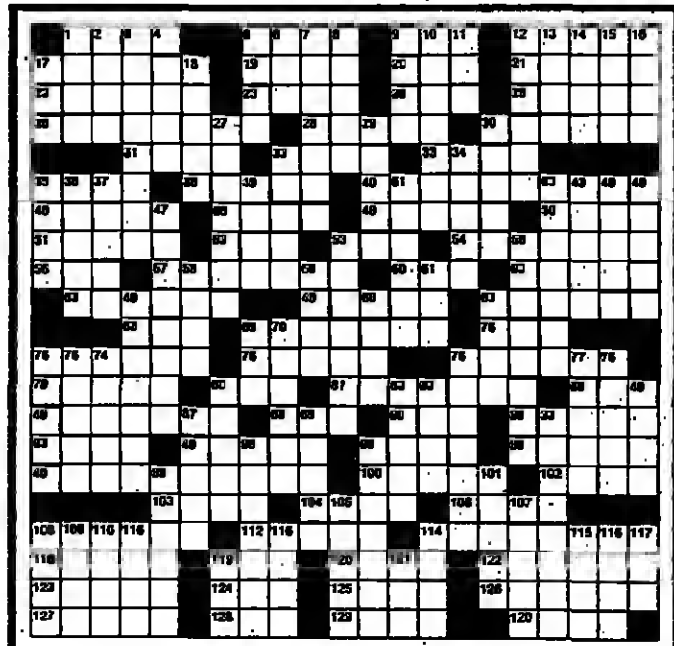
Britain and the United States had resisted moves by France and Australia to create the wilderness park, the idea of which pitted headline conservationists against others wishing to leave the way open for controlled mining.

"I think it's an excellent outcome," Australia's chief representative Alan Brown told journalists as the text of the declaration went to a full session of the conference for final vetting early Saturday.

French officials had earlier called the meeting a failure, but sounded more optimistic after the compromise.

### THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Ertensen



1. In Spring, corn farmer passes up summer for fall crop, makes big bucks.  
2. When ordering a real big breakfast, I don't waffle; I choose hotcakes.  
3. Fleets turned into flaccid when maitre d' emptied tobacco bottle into punchbowl.  
4. All dolphins are creatures in the sea are sacred to Neptune.

#### CRYPTOGRAMS

1. AKEDICHVNAVY SHREW IBWICBDUY  
SECIDILY OV ROYWNOK EBNRUWC SOCK  
JHSIDOWN KBALEWY.  
—By Lois H. Jones
2. QETT BGOAT GCUECXNBY JDU OBNGO  
"ONG GAB" UHNNC HATT ER MDN YAGXN  
JAMD DUM GAB.  
—By Barbara J. Raig
3. XWC YLWT BXIFO OCEX RT LWXBOE YLWT  
RWTBLWR EXFIC.  
—By Gordon Miller
4. ESP MISHNAP MUPY UG MUCK MUCY YGP  
HACK PYDE DAP MIUE.  
—By Ed Haddleton

